

222



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Sarawak

1949



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Errata

Page 35.

Line 30 should read “.....(roughly 1,970 tons of rice)”

Line 31 should read “.....(roughly 2,570 tons of rice)”

Line 32 should read “.....(roughly 3,180 tons of rice)”



ANNUAL REPORT

ON

SARAWAK

for the year

1949.

KUCHING:

LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1950

PRINTED IN KUCHING

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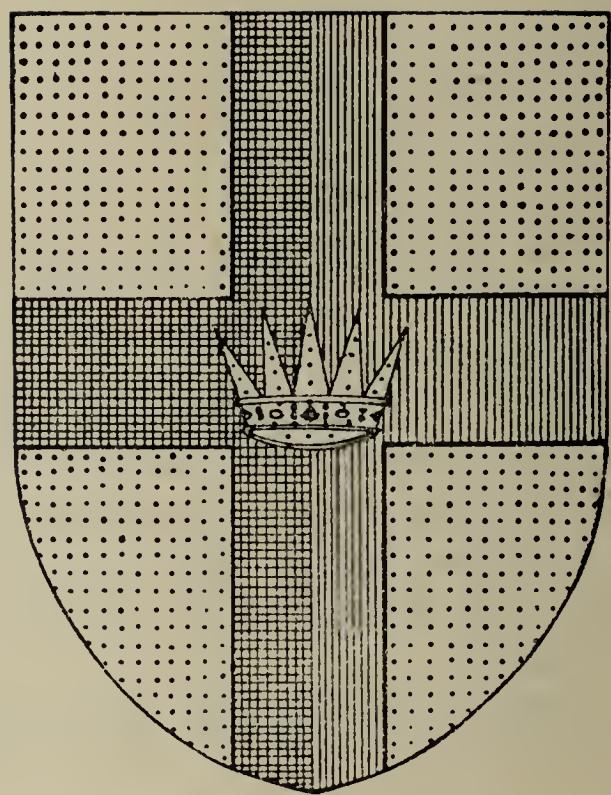
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Arms of the Colony of Sarawak

PART I

Review of 1949.

The year 1949 has seen important political changes in South-East Asia and the Far East. The complete overthrow of the Chinese Nationalist Government by the Communist People's Liberation Army, followed by the establishment of a Communist Government in Peking, and the transfer of power by the Netherlands Government in December to the new Republic of the United States of Indonesia have most nearly affected Sarawak, over a quarter of whose population are Chinese, and the greater part of whose frontier now marches with that of a constituent state of the Indonesian Republic.

The year has been one of continued instability abroad. With the emergency in Malaya in its second year, with civil war in Burma, and with disquieting signs in other countries, the Government of Sarawak has had to intensify its security measures. Control of immigration was tightened, and an Immigration Department established. An Ordinance providing for National Registration was passed in May. This measure is designed to prevent the illegal infiltration into Sarawak of undesirable elements, and it provides for the registration of all persons who are not under the age of 14, subject to certain specified exceptions. By the end of the year registration in the First Division had been virtually completed and satisfactory progress had been made in the Third and Fourth Divisions, 121,547 persons in all having been registered. Approval was sought towards the end of the year to an increase in the strength of the Sarawak Constabulary, and a start was made in the recruitment and training of a reserve force of 500 Special Constables.

Sir Charles Arden-Clarke, K.C.M.G., departed from the Colony on leave towards the end of January, and the Chief Secretary, Mr. C. W. Dawson, C.M.G., became Officer Administering the Government. Before the expiry of his leave, Sir Charles was appointed Governor of the Gold Coast, but he paid a short farewell visit to Sarawak in July. His successor, Mr. D. G. Stewart, C.M.G., arrived in November, but three weeks later, while on an official visit to Sibu, he

was stabbed by a young Malay fanatic belonging to one of the organisations which has opposed the cession of Sarawak to the Crown. On Mr. Stewart's tragic death a week after the attack, Mr. Dawson again assumed the administration of the Government.

The 1949 estimates budgetted for a deficit of \$5,132,000 on an expected revenue of \$14,055,000. The revised estimates show a revenue of \$15,385,000 and an expenditure of \$17,397,000, leaving a deficit of \$2,012,000.

The estimates had been drawn up on the assumption that the surplus balances at the end of 1948 would be in the region of \$8,900,000. During 1948, however, there was a considerable increase in revenue over the estimated figures, largely due to an exceptionally favourable export market in sago and a strong market in rubber, which raised the Customs revenue by \$2,891,000. On the expenditure side savings were made of \$1,473,000, largely under the Public Works and Municipal heads, owing to the non-arrival of materials ordered from the United Kingdom. The result on the year's working was, therefore, a surplus of \$2,759,000 as against an estimated deficit of \$1,500,000, and the surplus balances at the beginning of 1949 amounted to \$13,200,000.

As a result the Colony starts 1950 with balances in hand of not less than \$11,000,000.

The aggregate value of the external trade of the Colony for 1949 was \$297,598,019 as compared with \$270,020,772 for 1948. Exports exceeded imports by \$77,659,099. For the greater part of the year, however, there was something in the nature of a trade recession, with a sharp drop in the price of rubber and a decline in the demand for sago flour. This was checked later in the year, partly owing to a more accommodating attitude on the part of America in the matter of rubber purchases, and partly owing to the revaluation of the pound in September.

There has been a marked improvement in the production of rice, the country's staple food, due to the efforts of the Department of Agriculture and the success of the Government's padi purchasing scheme. There is more than enough wet padi land to produce all Sarawak's requirements, and the present wasteful methods of shifting hill cultivation, which are devastating the forests and silting up the rivers with the country's best soil, must be made to give way to proper

methods of wet padi farming. The Natural Resources Ordinance, passed in November, gives the necessary powers to control this type of cultivation. Experiments have been conducted by the Department of Agriculture in mechanical cultivation. Towards the end of the year a large padi-planting project was initiated at Paya Megok, some 27 miles from Kuching, the main object of which is the intensive production of padi by modern methods, including controlled irrigation.

Efforts have been made to improve the quality of Sarawak's rubber by demonstration of proper methods, discouragement of the use of inferior coagulants and provision of good planting material, but these have as yet met with only limited success.

Timber production has continued to increase. Exports, which reached in 1948 the record figure of 980,100 cubic feet, amounted during the past year to 1,925,600 cubic feet. Expansion in the staff of the Forest Department has enabled further areas of forest to be brought under full management, and a Forestry Development Scheme, representing expenditure of just under \$400,000 up to March, 1956, has been approved and will start from 1st January, 1950. This scheme will enable the Department to carry out its policy of identifying Sarawak's forest possessions and reserving such parts thereof as are necessary to a balanced forest economy.

The results of the Fisheries Survey were at first somewhat disappointing, but recently experiments with the Danish seine and long line fishing proved more promising, and towards the end of the year experiments with an improved type of fish trap, based on the native design, gave indications of proving an outstanding success.

A Geological Survey Department for the three Borneo territories, with headquarters in Kuching, was established during the year, and a comprehensive Mining Ordinance was enacted, covering all minerals other than oil. The new Department's work has hitherto been confined in the main to the collection of basic information, with the aim of gradually preparing a geological sketch map and examining generally the mineral resources of the three territories. The most important development of 1949 was the discovery of high-grade aluminium ore in the First Division.

The increase in the number of schools has continued, and it is of interest to note the greatly increased number of girls attending schools, which is more than double the pre-war figure. The Batu Lintang Teacher Training Centre produced its first batch of forty graduates towards the end of the year, consisting of Malays, Melanaus, Sea Dayaks, Land Dayaks, one Bisaya and one Kelabit. A Committee was appointed to prepare plans for Adult Education and a member of the Department made a special study of this in England. Night classes, both Government and private, became increasingly popular. The arrival of a lady education officer led to the organisation of classes for women teachers in needlework and handwork, and plans were made to open, at the beginning of 1950, classes in domestic science for girls of all schools in Kuching.

The Simanggang dispensary was converted into a small hospital towards the end of the year, with the posting there of a medical officer. The arrival of a health visitor made possible an expansion in the ante-natal and child welfare service.

Social welfare activities were increased with the return from Singapore of a probation officer after a year's training there, and the interests of labour were furthered by the enactment of a Workmen's Compensation Ordinance.

Occupational training was introduced into the prisons, in the form of carpentry and tinsmiths' work in Kuching, and a padi farm at Sibu. An earning scheme has been started, designed to raise the morale and self-respect of prisoners. Books are now made available to prisoners and lessons and lectures are given.

The newly-formed Co-operative Societies Department has made considerable progress during the year, though its activities are at present necessarily limited.

Communications are being improved. A modern airport is under construction six miles from Kuching. A number of minor roads have been completed and work is in progress on the reconstruction of the road from Kuching to Serian, which will form part of the trunk road, which will one day link Kuching with Sibu.

The technical departments have still in general been handicapped by lack of trained staff. The Education and the Medical and Health Departments, however, and towards

the end of the year the Department of Agriculture, received welcome additions to their strength, and three engineers for the Public Works Department were expected early in 1950.

Meanwhile, the system of Local Government, initiated within the last two years, is making substantial progress, and eleven new Authorities were constituted during 1949. These include two Authorities of mixed races, and the establishment of these gives reasonable hope that it may in time prove possible to break down some of the barriers which at present separate the numerous races and to evolve a true citizen of Sarawak.

Development and Welfare Projects.

Some of the more important projects have been referred to above: the scheme for wet padi cultivation at Paya Megok, the Fisheries and Geological Surveys, the Batu Lintang Teacher-training Centre and Secondary School, the Kuching Airport and the road development schemes.

Steady progress is being made with the soil survey (more properly a land inventory) and with the cultivation of cash crops. Arrangements were being made to import limited supplies of clean selected cocoa-planting materials from West Africa early in 1950. Experiments in mechanical cultivation have yielded promising results; on present indications it seems unlikely that the small farmer will be able to purchase machinery, either individually or co-operatively, for his own use, but the prospects for the operation of a farmers' hire service by the Department of Agriculture in selected areas seem quite good.

Ample supplies of materials are now available for rubber planting. As a fresh approach to the problem, a project is under consideration for the construction of a small-scale experimental centralised processing factory on modern lines, for the manufacture of standard products from latex collected by smallholders.

The number of travelling dispensaries has remained at two throughout the year. Experience gained from their operation has amply proved their value, and arrangements were in hand for the establishment of fourteen more travelling

dispensaries in stations throughout the country at the beginning of 1950.

The very interesting experiment in adult education which is being made at the Rural Improvement School at Kanowit continued during 1949, and the first group of twenty-six married couples will complete the two-year course during the first half of 1950.

Socio-Economic Surveys of the Chinese, Melanau, Sea Dayak and Land Dayak communities have been in progress during the year. The two former began late in 1948, the two latter at the beginning of 1949. The officer responsible for the Chinese survey has now completed his study on the ground and has returned to England to compile his report.

The Census scheme, formed for the population census of 1947, is still in operation, as, owing to considerable delays in the printing of the tables, the Census Report has not yet been published.

Schemes financed entirely from Colony funds are the Co-operative Societies Department, already mentioned, social welfare activities in the form of the Boys' Home in Kuching and the probation officer, and the control of sago flour exports by grading.

The table below shows the projects which were initiated or in operation during 1949, with the amounts spent on each. As the 1949 accounts have not yet been finally closed, the totals are provisional only. It should be emphasised that, though against many schemes no expenditure is shown from local funds, in a number of them, notably the Agricultural and Public Works schemes, a considerable proportion of the staff operating the projects is paid from Colony revenues. As such staff are not employed wholly on any one scheme, it is not practicable to show their salaries and allowances against the scheme. In addition, maintenance of roads constructed from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds has been borne on the Colony's revenues, but here again no sum is shown, as expenditure has been met from the ordinary maintenance votes.

Name of Scheme.	Number.	Amount spent from initiation to end of 1949.	
		From C.D. & W. Funds.	From Local Funds.
		\$	\$
AGRICULTURE.			
1. Soil Survey ...	D.816.	52,746	—
2. Improvement of Rubber Industry ...	D.826.	13,937	—
3. Cultivation of Cash Crops ...	D.954.	26,042	—
4. Mechanical Cultivation ...	D.973 & D.973A.	43,589	—
5. Padi Production—Paya Megok Drainage and Irrigation ...	D.1208.	14,487	—
EDUCATION.			
6. Batu Lintang Teacher-Training Centre and Secondary School ...	D.839 & D.839A.	201,691	28,128
7. Rural Improvement (Long-house) School, Kanowit ...	D.838.	148,317	5,860
FISHERIES.			
8. Fisheries Survey ...	D.837 & R.209.	105,555	—
GEOLOGICAL.			
9. Geological Survey ...	D.950 & D.1109*.	143,877	—
MEDICAL AND HEALTH.			
10. Travelling Dispensaries ...	D.830.	232,266	—
11. Malaria Survey ...	R.158 & R.158A**.	—	—
POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.			
12. Installation of Telecommunications Service, Kuching Airfield ...	D.1117***.	—	—
PUBLIC WORKS.			
13. Communications—Roads ...	D.1076.	112,922	—
14. Secondary Roads and Telecommunications ...	D.944	98,910	—
15. Kuching Airfield ...	D.913 & D.913A.	306,935	—
16. Preliminary Surveys for Secondary Roads ...		—	52,995†

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY.

17. Sociological Research	...	R.270.	35,941	17,329
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CENSUS.

18. Sarawak Population Census	...	D.804.	216,884	—
		D.804A,		
		D.804B,		
		D.804C &		
		D.804D.		

CO-OPERATION.

19. Co-operative Development Plan	—	47,013
-----------------------------------	---	--------

SOCIAL WELFARE.

20. Kuching Boys' Home	...	—	19,362
21. Social Welfare Staff	...	—	5,010

TRADE AND CUSTOMS.

22. Produce, Export Control	...	—	6,000
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*Joint Scheme for North Borneo and Sarawak.

**Joint Scheme for North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei, administered by North Borneo up to 31st March, 1950.

***Scheme initiated in 1949 and equipment ordered, but no expenditure incurred by the end of the year.

†Expenditure incurred from local funds; eligible for reimbursement from C.D. & W.F. if subsequently included in a formal approved scheme.

PART II

CHAPTER 1.

Population.

A full-scale population census was conducted during 1947. The census was satisfactorily carried out but unfortunately owing to printing difficulties the statistical analysis and final report has not yet been published. The total population of Sarawak in 1947 as disclosed by the census was 546,385.

The main indigenous cultural groups in Sarawak may be classified as Sea Dayak (or Iban), Malay, Melanau, Land Dayak, and a last group of other and indeterminate tribes comprising Kayans, Kenyahs, Bisayas, Kedayans, Kelabits, Muruts and many others. The non-indigenous races include Europeans, Chinese, Indians and Javanese. In the census, indigenous people were defined as "those persons who recognise no allegiance to any foreign territory, who regard Sarawak as their homeland, who believe themselves to be a part of the territory, and who are now regarded as natives by their fellow men."

The following table shows the comparative numerical importance of each cultural group as determined by the 1947 census :—

<i>Cultural group.</i>	<i>Population in 1947.</i>	<i>Percentage of total population.</i>
European	... 691	0.1%
Malay	... 97,469	17.9%
Melanau	... 35,560	6.5%
Sea Dayak	... 190,326	34.8%
Land Dayak	... 42,195	7.7%
Other Indigenous	... 29,867	5.5%
Chinese	... 145,158	26.6%
Other Non-Indigenous		
Asiatic	... 5,119	0.9%
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	546,385	100.0%
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The indigenes of Sarawak form 72.4% of the population. The Sea Dayak group is the largest and probably the most homogeneous of the indigenous people. Very strong local variations appear in the Sea Dayak language, yet it is distinctive and well recognised as a native language of Sarawak.

The Land Dayaks are mainly to be found in the First Division. The legendary home of these people is believed by many of them to be "Gunong Sungkong" in West Borneo, and a close relationship is claimed and exists with people of the same culture in nearby villages in West Borneo. This kinship leads to some movement across the border.

The Malays are of mixed stock and probably are the least native of all the indigenous people. They are bound by the common tie of Mohammedanism and have been powerful along the coast for centuries. Their domination was intermittent and at times must have been almost non-existent, but it was sufficiently effective to leave an impression upon the pagan tribes of the seaboard.

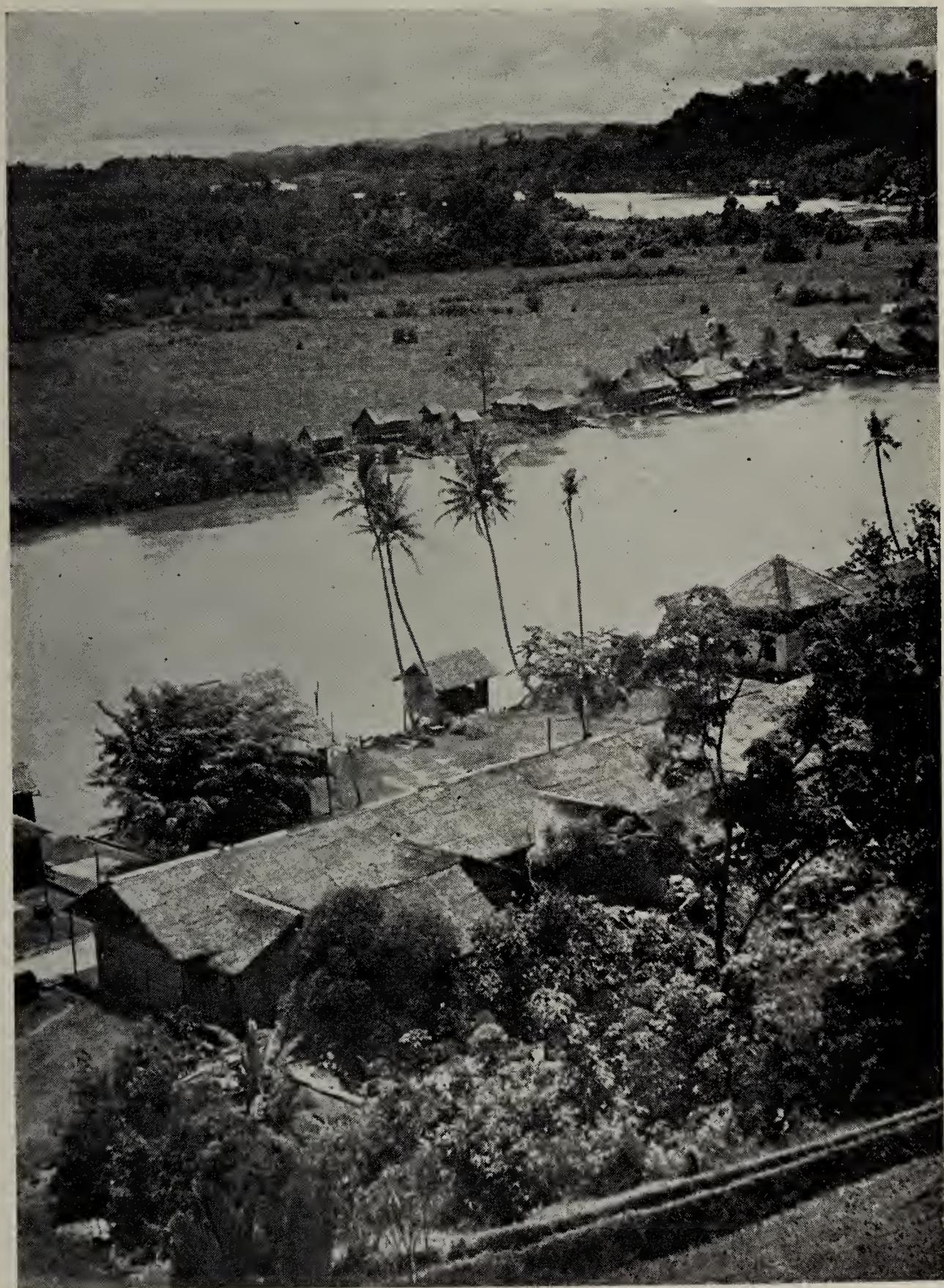
Numerically the Chinese are the second most important group of people in Sarawak; economically they take first place and culturally their influence is second only to European. There is substantial evidence that Chinese have lived in parts of Sarawak for many hundreds of years.

The Melanaus are found in the coastal areas of the Third and Fourth Divisions, and are the principal cultivators of sago. At the present time they are intermediate between the Malays and the Pagan groups, in that some of them retain their Pagan customs and habits, while others have become Mohammedans.

The Kayans and Kenyahs live on the Baram River and the headwaters of the Rejang and the Balui. They are thought to have come from the Batang Kayan across the Indonesian border.

Other indigenous races are the Muruts, Bisayas, Kelabits, nomadic Punans, Kedayans and Dusuns from North Borneo.
Vital Statistics.

The Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance, enacted in 1948, was brought into operation on 1st August, 1949. It worked somewhat imperfectly, as District Registrars were still unfamiliar with the provisions of the Ordinance and lacked experience of its administration. Nevertheless there was improvement by the end of the year, and the operation of the Ordinance should be more efficient and effective next year.



View from the Residency, Limbang.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison.



Kayan girls dancing, Balui River.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison.

Immigration.

Control was considerably improved during 1949 owing to the establishment of an Immigration Department and the appointment of an Assistant Immigration Officer and a Passport Officer in Kuching. The issue of immigrant landing permits for permanent entry into Sarawak was reduced to a minimum. Control of travellers by land, especially in the First Division, between Sarawak and West Borneo, continues to be a problem incapable as yet of satisfactory solution, owing to the physical impossibility of patrolling the whole border and to the ease with which illegal immigrants may, if they wish, avoid the checking posts at Serian, Bau and Lundu.

Owing to the large profits to be gained by smuggling rubber, copra and pepper out of West Borneo into Sarawak, there was a considerable increase during 1949 in the small craft trading between Indonesian and Sarawak ports. Every effort was made to control the temporary entry of merchants masquerading as crew on board these vessels.

Singapore vessels continued to call regularly at Kuching, Sarikei, Binatang, Sibu and Miri.

Migration to and from Sarawak during 1949 was as follows :—

<i>Race.</i>	<i>Immigrants.</i>	<i>Emigrants.</i>
European	999	813
Chinese	4,009	3,466
Malay	328	343
Melanau	5	—
Sea Dayak	404	379
Other Indigenous	7	4
Other Asiatic	464	506
 Total	 6,216	 5,511

Movement of Labour.

There is constant interchange of labour in the oilfields area between Miri in Sarawak and Seria in Brunei, but no statistics are available. Apart from this there was no importation of recruited labour into Sarawak during 1949. Five batches of labourers, including 131 Dayaks and 161 Chinese, with 131 dependants, were recruited under licence in Sarawak for work on a tobacco plantation in North Borneo.

CHAPTER 2.

Occupations, Wages, Labour Organisation, Co-operative Societies.

By far the largest part of the population is engaged in agricultural pursuits. The Dayaks, Kayans and Kenyahs are farmers employing primitive methods of agriculture and engaged mainly in planting rice. Approximately 51% of the total population of Sarawak works at some gainful occupation and of this 45% of the workers are employed in some form of agriculture. Many have some other form of part time occupation such as the extraction of jungle produce, a little fishing and spasmodic rubber production. The Melanaus who are a coastal tribe are mainly engaged in working sago and in fishing.

Agriculture also ranks first in the occupations of the Chinese; they are to a large extent rubber planters. There are several Chinese-owned saw-mills now operating and small local factories (mostly Chinese) produce matches, pottery, bricks, vermicelli and a variety of other products. The trade of the country is, except for a few European importing firms, in the hands of the Chinese.

The only large single employer of labour is the Sarawak Oilfields Ltd. which employs a total of approximately 1,800 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workmen. Sago production, logging, dock work and the distribution of imported goods make up practically the whole of the rest of the field of organised employment.

A very large proportion of the women of Sarawak do some form of work outside the house, and household duties among the interior people are reduced to elementary cooking and the care of children.

No recent or reliable statistics of wage rates and hours of work are available; hours of work are generally speaking long. Wages are lower than in Malaya, but, taking the cost of living into consideration, do not seem to compare unfavourably.

Conditions of labour remained generally unchanged during 1949, and there were no disputes of importance. The number of persons employed directly and indirectly in the timber trade

increased with the expansion of the trade throughout the country. Following on the revaluation of the pound in September and the consequent rise in the price of rubber, wages on the smaller rubber estates rose; at the end of the year a tapper, doing afternoon work in addition to his tapping, could earn between \$1.40 and \$1.50 per diem. Wages in the sago industry averaged \$3.40 per diem, while wages on the oilfields for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labour were respectively \$2.26, \$3.02 and \$4.64 per diem. The cost of living tended to rise throughout 1949.

The Secretary for Chinese Affairs is also Protector of Labour, and District Officers are Deputy Protectors.

Workers are protected by the Labour Protection Ordinance and the Labour Conventions Ordinance. The former provides protection in matters of health conditions, the truck system, dismissal without notice and agreements to labour, and permits inspection of places of employment. There is machinery for the making of complaints by labourers to the Protector, who has power to make orders in respect of conditions of work, wages, notice of termination of work and the definition of a day's work or task. The Ordinance was amended during the year, to reduce the maximum working day from nine to eight hours and to empower the Protector to call for quarterly labour returns from employers.

The Labour Conventions Ordinance applies to Sarawak a number of International Conventions dealing with labour, industrial undertakings, and child and female labour. There is no regulated system of inspection of places of employment or of reporting on inspections, but District Officers regularly visit all important undertakings in their districts and take such action as appears appropriate. Detailed conditions affecting the recruitment of labour for employment outside Sarawak were drawn up during the year for application by means of a licensing system in conformity with the principles of the relevant International Conventions.

A new Labour Code is in course of compilation, but its completion has been held up pending the return of the Protector from England, where he has attended a three months' course of labour study under the Ministry of Labour.

The number of registered Trade Unions increased during 1949 from four to eleven. The largest, the Kuching Wharf Labourers' Union, with some 302 members, continued to develop satisfactorily.

A Workmen's Compensation Ordinance was enacted during the year, to come into force on the 1st April, 1950.

Co-operation.

A Registrar of Co-operative Societies was appointed with effect from 12th March, 1948, but the new Co-operative Societies Department did not commence work until 1st January, 1949.

The first attempt to introduce Co-operation into Sarawak was made with the enactment of the Co-operative Societies Ordinance on 1st December, 1939, and subsequently the Secretary for Native Affairs was appointed Registrar. No Rules were published under this Ordinance, and although three Societies (two of doubtful Co-operative intent) were registered before the Japanese occupation in December, 1941, no determined attempt was made to introduce Co-operation.

The Co-operative Societies Ordinance, 1948, was enacted and came into operation on 1st January, 1949, the previous Ordinance of 1939 being repealed at the same time. The Co-operative Societies Rules, 1949, made under the 1948 Ordinance, came into force on 3rd January, 1949.

During 1949 the emphasis was upon training of field staff and the establishment of demonstration Co-operatives in selected areas. With only two partly-trained Co-operative Officers, who were obliged to spend a large proportion of their time as tutors of the trainees in Kuching, it has not been possible to expand with any rapidity.

Three areas were selected for demonstration. Firstly, the Kuching District, because Kuching is the headquarters of the Department and supervision is easy; secondly, the Saribas District, because it is reasonably accessible and there exists a great demand among the Sea Dayaks of that area for Co-operatives; and thirdly, the Oya-Dalat District, because it also is reasonably accessible and there is wide scope for Co-operation among the sago cultivators. Other areas were suggested, and requests to organise Co-operatives came from other places, but it was decided not to disperse the inadequate forces of the Department beyond these three Districts.

By the end of the year twenty-four Societies had been registered, and many others are in course of formation. Eight were registered in the Kuching District of the First Division, six in the Saribas District of the Second Division,

and nine in the Oya-Dalat District of the Third Division. Another one was established at the Rural Improvement School, Kanowit.

Three Thrift and Loan Societies have been formed for the purpose of savings and investment, their members being Sea Dayaks of the Saribas District; a further eleven Rural Credit Societies of unlimited liability function among Malays and Melanaus for the purpose of savings and loans; three village stores have been opened; two processing societies operate, one a padi mill, the other a sago rasping plant; and, lastly, Chinese fishermen have combined to start a Model Village Society.

CHAPTER 3.

Public Finance and Taxation.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Comparative figures of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1948, the original Estimates for 1949 and the revised Estimates based on information available as at the 31st March, 1950, are given below:—

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expen- diture.</i>	<i>Surplus.</i>	<i>Deficit.</i>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Actual 1948	15,783,896	13,025,257	2,758,638	—
Original Estimates, 1949	14,055,045	19,186,932	—	5,131,887
Revised Estimates, 1949	15,385,156	17,396,899	—	2,011,743

When the Estimates for 1949 were presented a deficit of \$5,131,887 was anticipated. The accounts for the year 1949 have not yet been closed but there is every reason to expect that the actual deficit will not exceed a sum of \$2,011,743. This figure is based upon the Expenditure for 1949 falling short of the amount originally provided by \$1,629.017 and the Revenue exceeding the original Estimate by \$1,991,585.

It is therefore estimated that at the end of the year 1949 the General Revenue Balance amounted to approximately \$11,000,000.

Revenue.

The main heads of Revenue are as follows:—

<i>Head of Revenue.</i>	<i>Actual 1948.</i>	<i>Estimated 1949. (Revised March, 1950).</i>	<i>Estimated 1949 (Revised March, 1950).</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Customs	10,741,487	8,650,000	9,732,810
Licences, Taxes and Internal Revenue	731,572	926,509	1,080,054
Fees of Court or Office, etc. ...	954,312	730,430	473,324
Departmental Reimbursements	434,150	425,295	897,901
Land	386,303	367,880	405,264
Forest	245,408	242,000	349,932
Posts and Telegraphs ...	320,380	381,400	497,115
Marine	117,291	107,000	149,079

<i>Head of Revenue.</i>	<i>Actual 1948.</i>	<i>Estimated 1949.</i>	<i>Estimated 1949 (Revised March, 1950).</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Municipal (Outstations) ...	314,237	203,169	222,585
Municipal (Kuching) ...	343,897	209,500	270,704
Revenue from Government Property	47,251	103,270	163,624
Land Sales	142,903	10,720	15,808
Interest	471,889	281,500	382,610
Rehabilitation Loans ...	64,952	46,300	35,748
	15,316,032	12,684,973	14,676,558
Colonial Development and Welfare Grants ...	467,864	1,370,072	708,598
TOTAL ...	15,783,896	14,055,045	15,385,156

Expenditure.

The heads of Expenditure are as follows:—

<i>Head of Expenditure.</i>	<i>Actual 1948.</i>	<i>Estimated 1949.</i>	<i>Estimated 1949 (Revised March, 1950).</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Governor	74,007	115,459	89,801
H.H. the Rajah's Dependants	131,153	131,600	122,175
Administration*	—	348,757	328,863
Agriculture	191,304	248,724	216,781
Audit	28,448	29,823	34,851
Chinese Affairs	36,707	48,050	58,504
Clerical Service** ...	—	561,787	522,222
Constabulary	946,710	1,191,514	964,381
Co-operation	14,142	38,508	33,335
Development	13,415	—	—
Education	276,436	455,372	333,716
Forest	103,469	142,130	144,000
Kuching Boys' Home ...	5,483	21,668	13,490
Landing Grounds ...	1,999	3,500	10,234
Land and Survey ...	357,716	542,419	490,966
Legal	66,712	109,333	89,129
Marine	351,062	692,421	538,710
Marine Police	—	4,209	—
Medical and Health ...	989,469	1,189,640	1,152,420

* Appeared in 1948 under R. & D.O. votes.

**Appeared in 1948 under departmental votes.

Head of Expenditure.	Actual 1948.	Estimated 1949.	Estimated 1949 (Revised March, 1950).	
			\$	\$
Miscellaneous Services	...	—	3,540,086	4,071,162
Municipal—Kuching	...	821,411	273,937	259,043
Museum and Library	...	22,641	31,376	52,337
Native Affairs	...	151,060	232,811	200,469
National Registration	...	—	—	137,763
Pensions and Provident Fund		645,283	888,050	426,338
Posts and Telegraphs	...	343,291	481,397	479,974
Printing	...	146,763	231,203	246,143
Prisons	...	115,313	176,105	125,348
Public Works Department	...	2,642,376	649,947	3,390,647
,, ,, Recurrent	...		413,075	
,, ,, Extraordinary			2,975,981	
R. & D. O. 1st Division	...	158,509	159,592	133,699
Municipal, 1st Division (Bau)		11,683	5,505	
R. & D. O. 2nd Division	...	175,141	121,254	136,371
R. & D. O. 3rd Division	...	220,224	151,406	257,813
Municipal, 3rd Division (Sibu Sarikei and Binatang)	...	79,866	77,166	
R. & D. O. 4th Division	...	108,904	76,762	184,812
Municipal, 4th Division (Miri)		59,906	54,699	
R. & D. O. 5th Division	...	65,673	45,099	
Secretariat	...	145,057	128,219	179,878
Special Constabulary	...	—	—	5,380
Survey of Ships	...	1,784	2,955	2,601
Trade and Customs	...	227,260	264,810	279,588
Treasury	...	2,500,458	195,131	170,075
Sociological Research	...	282	15,380	18,056
Rehabilitation Loans	...	332,326	750,000	171,051
War Damage Claims mission—Assessment	Com- mission	—	—	10,897
Rice Mill	...	19,546	—	—
Shortages and Losses	...	9,617	—	—
Unallocated Stores	...	—	—	104,820
		12,592,606	17,816,860	16,187,843
Colonial Development Welfare Schemes	and	432,651	1,370,072	1,209,056
TOTAL	..	13,025,257	19,186,932	17,396,899

Public Debt.

The Colony has no public debt.

Assets and Liabilities.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT
31ST DECEMBER, 1943.

*LIABILITIES.**Previous Year.*

	\$	Deposits—		\$	\$
		Security Deposits	...	768,072.30	
1,899,706.67		Miscellaneous	...	736,085.31	1,504,157.61
4,058,685.25					
135,673.42		Special Funds	...	...	4,541,387.23
4,466.19		Current Accounts	...	...	451,803.67
7,383,850.94		Goods-in-transit	...	...	—
		Trading A/c. Food Control	...	...	1,207,046.07
		Allotments—			
		London	...	4,891.67	
10,030.26		Local	...	942.13	5,833.80
—					53,496.33
		Suspense	...	...
		General Revenue Balance—			
		Balance as at 1.1.1948	...	10,183,357.73	
		Add Surplus & Deficit A/c.		2,758,638.34	
					12,941,996.07
		Add Appreciation of Investments	...	271,182.53	
10,183,357.73		Balance as at 31.12.1948	...	...	13,213,178.60
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
23,675,770.46					20,976,903.31

*ASSETS.**Previous Year.*

	\$			\$	\$
3,172,931.09		Cash	...	...	4,032,612.74
671,244.26		Fixed Deposits with Chartered Bank, Kuching	...	...	755,970.36
6,390,961.14		Joint Colonial Fund	...	...	2,185,714.29
10,847,726.27		Investments	...	...	12,106,562.67
647,502.82		Investments, Special Funds	...	...	664,840.35
931,142.18		Advances	...	...	849,802.32
4,965.00		Imprests	...	...	5,645.00
32,374.74		Current Account	...	...	35,684.10
		Stock—			
		Unallocated Stock, Agriculture	...	13,058.21	
237,473.65		Unallocated Stock, Public Works Department	...	—	13,058.21
477,722.20		Drafts and Remittances	...	...	233,813.94
240,770.34		Remittances between Chests	...	...	82,377.91
332.11		Allotments—Local	...	...	—
20,624.66		Suspense	...	...	10,821.42
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
23,675,770.46					20,976,903.31

Note :—

A sum of \$30,552.21 is due by His Majesty's Government in respect of under issues on the following Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes :—

Scheme No.	816	...	\$13,513.97
„ „	D.968	...	219.44
„ „	804	...	2,572.89
„ „	D.837 & R.209	...	2,035.39
„ „	913	...	3,134.75
„ „	R.270	...	9,075.77
			<u>\$30,552.21</u>

Taxation.

The main source of income is Customs Import and Export Duties which comprise approximately two-thirds of the total revenue of the Colony. The estimated figure for 1949 is \$9,732,810.

Customs Tariff.

The Customs Tariff is divided into two parts, namely,

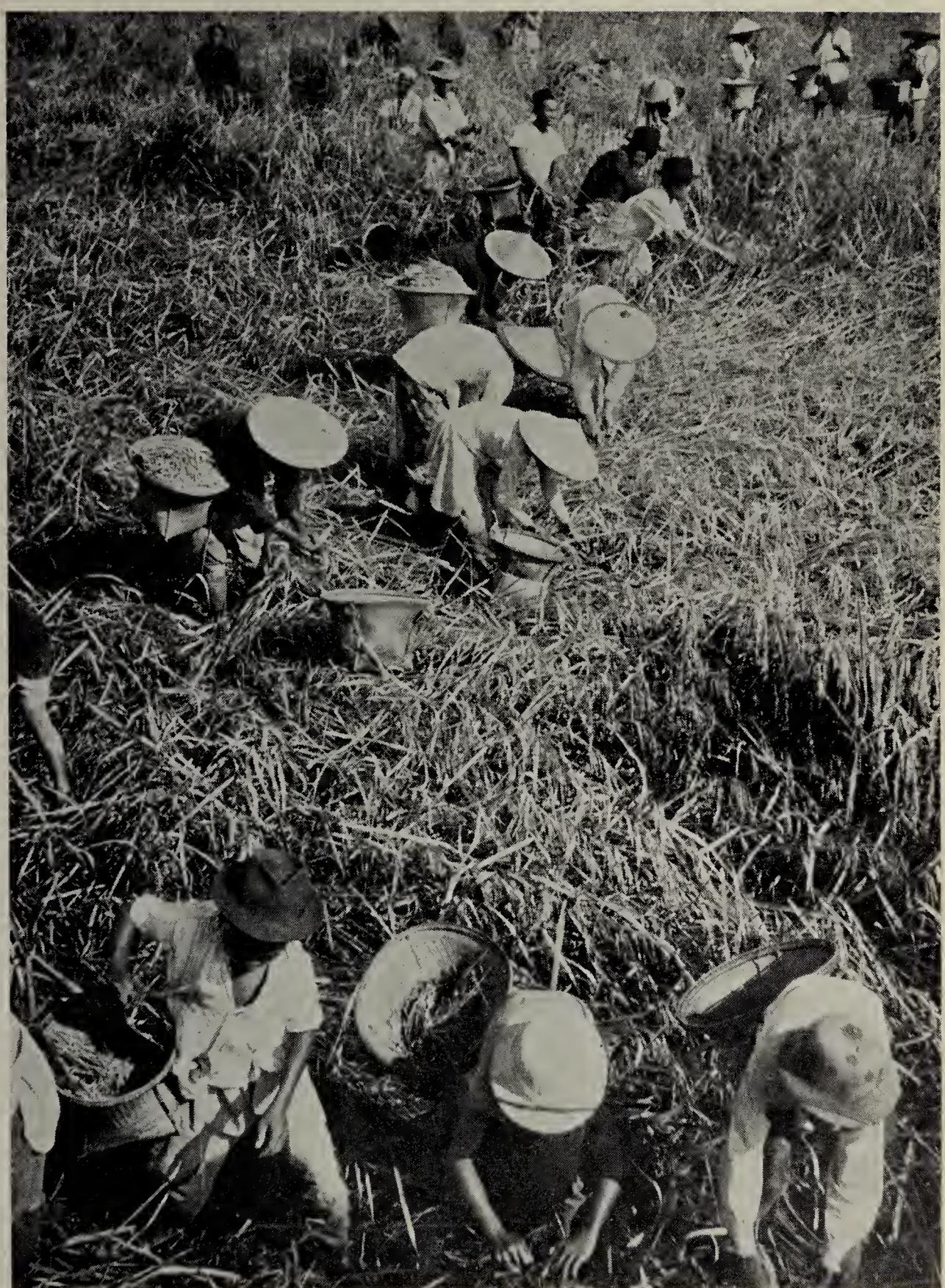
(a) Import Duties which include duties on liquor, tobacco, petroleum and petroleum products, sugar, flour, salt, tea, milk, coffee, tinned meats, soaps, cosmetics and perfumery, textiles, matches, fireworks, musical instruments, cameras, electrical and wireless apparatus, vehicles, timber and furniture.

(b) Export Duties on birds' nests, copra, damar, fish (dried and salted), guano, jelutong, illipe nuts, pepper, sago and rubber.

The main revenue-producing items in 1949 were Import Duties on cigarettes and tobacco \$3,492,000, on petroleum products \$338,000, on textiles and wearing apparel \$512,000, on sugar \$425,000, and on alcoholic liquors \$349,000; and Export Duties on rubber \$2,577,000, on sago \$493,000, on pepper \$235,000, on copra \$152,000 and on jelutong \$110,000.

*EXCISE AND STAMP DUTIES.**(a) Excise.*

There is no Excise Duty as such in Sarawak but fees which are based on excise procedure are charged on the manufacture of matches and certain wines within the Colony.



Malays harvesting rice at Sundar.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison.

Murut rice fields at Fa Brayong in the Upper Trusan.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison.



(b) *Stamp Duties.*

Stamp Duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance (Cap. 17). The principal duties are:—

Affidavits or declarations in writing	\$ 2.50
Agreements or contracts	.50
Annuity (instrument creating an annuity)	10.00
Bill of Exchange (including cheques on banks):—	
(i) payable on demand or at sight ...	.06
(ii) of any other kind ...	10 cents for every \$100 or part thereof.
Declaration of Trust or Trust Deed	5.00
Receipts	6 cents on amounts exceeding \$10.00

A stamp duty of 6 cents on each cheque drawn on a bank, a document previously free of duty, was introduced in 1948.

The structure of the public accounts is such that it is not possible to quote figures of revenue arising from each individual source.

Door and Head Tax.

The system of Malay *hasil* (Head Tax) and Dayak Door Tax current during the rule of the Rajahs of Sarawak has been continued. Such collections, where Local Authorities have been instituted, are, as an administrative measure, paid over to the Authorities in full. The "door" tax is equivalent to what is called "hut" tax in other territories, the "door" being the apartment in a Dayak longhouse occupied by a single family. "Head tax" is applicable mainly to Malays and Melanaus, and is levied only on adult males. These combined taxes yield an annual revenue of approximately \$75,000.

Income and similar taxes.

On the 31st December, 1949, the Income Tax Ordinance came into force, but at present tax is charged, levied and collected only in respect of the incomes of companies incorporated or registered under any law or charter in force in

the Colony or elsewhere. There should be levied and paid for each year of assessment, upon the chargeable income of every company, tax at the rate of twenty per centum on every dollar of the chargeable income thereof.

A Trades Licensing Ordinance was enacted at the November, 1949, meeting of the Council Negri and this will come into force on the 1st January, 1950. This Ordinance is a corollary to the Income Tax Ordinance and is designed to extend a simple form of direct taxation, by way of trades licence fee, to certain sections of the community. The fees to be paid by the different categories of business are as follows:—

1. A licence to carry on the business of a wholesale trader—

For the principal or only place of business	...	...	\$ 400
For each subsidiary place of business	...		200

Provided that, if the person who carries on the business deals or trades only in goods manufactured, made or treated by him at the place of such business, the fee shall be—

For the principal or only place of business	...	...	100
For each subsidiary place of business	...		50

2. A licence to carry on the business of a retail trader including importation from places beyond the Colony—

For the principal or only place of business or where the business is not carried on at any defined premises	...	150
For each subsidiary place of business	...	50

Provided that no person shall be deemed to be an importer who carries on a business as a handcraftsman and only imports raw materials for the purposes of his trade or business and not for resale of such raw materials.

3. A licence to carry on the business of a retail trader not including importation from places beyond the Colony, for each place of business

...	...	50
-----	-----	----

4. A licence to carry on the business of a banker (including any branches or agencies)	2,500
5. (1) A licence to carry on the business of shipping or air transport in the Colony ...	400
(2) A licence to carry on the business of shipping in respect of vessels engaged only in the carriage coastwise or in the waterways of the Colony of passengers or cargo	50
(3) A licence to carry on the business of an agent of a shipping or air transport business which has no place of business in the Colony including any sub-agency in the Colony ...	200
For two or more such agencies ...	400
6. A licence to carry on the business of a contractor at any place in the Colony ...	400
Provided that where the total number of persons employed on the contract work at any one time does not exceed 20 then only half the above fee shall be charged.	
7. A licence to carry on the business of letting taxis or passenger or goods service vehicles for hire, or of a passenger omnibus service—	
If three or more vehicles are used in the business ...	100
If two or less vehicles are used in the business ...	50
8. A licence to carry on the business of a remittance shop ...	300
9. A licence to carry on any other business ...	50
10. Duplicate licences ...	2
11. Any transfer of a licence ...	2

Estate Duties.

The rates of Estate Duties were amended in 1948. Some relief on small estates was granted whilst a heavier duty was imposed on the larger estates.

The revised rates came into force on 1st September, 1948, and are as follows:—

Where the value of the estate exceeds:—

\$ 1,000 but does not exceed	\$ 3,000	...	1 per cent
3,000	5,000	...	1 $\frac{1}{2}$,,
5,000	7,500	...	2 $\frac{1}{2}$,,
7,500	10,000	...	3 $\frac{1}{2}$,,
10,000	20,000	...	5 ,,
20,000	40,000	...	7 $\frac{1}{2}$,,
40,000	70,000	...	10 ,,
70,000	100,000	...	15 ,,
Over 100,000		...	20 ,,

Entertainment Tax.

Entertainment tax is at present charged at the following rates:—

Where the payment excluding the amount of the duty:			
does not exceed 25 cents	...	...	5 cents
exceeds 25 cents and does not exceed 50 cents	...	10	,,
,, 50	,,	\$1	20
,, \$1	,,	\$2	30
,, \$2	,,	\$3	40
,, \$3	,,	\$5	50
,, \$5			10 per cent. of amount of the payment.

With effect from the 1st January, 1950, these rates are being amended to read:—

Where the payment including the amount of the duty—	
does not exceed 50 cents	... 10 per cent. of such payment.
exceeds 50 cents	... 20 per cent. of such payment.

CHAPTER 4.

Currency and Banking.

Currency.

Since the conclusion of the war Malayan currency has been issued in Sarawak, in the first instance to provide a common currency for the three British Borneo territories during the Military Administration. No new issue of Sarawak currency has been made since the re-occupation and none is intended. The following currencies are legal tender in Sarawak:—

Malayan

Sarawak

British North Borneo (Chartered Company).

Sarawak currency is gradually being withdrawn from circulation and is being replaced by Malayan currency. So far as is known, there is no British North Borneo currency in circulation in Sarawak. The remaining Sarawak currency in circulation is amply covered by gilt-edged securities in the London market.

At the 31st December, 1949, there was \$13,503,856 of Malayan currency in circulation and \$2,529,941 of Sarawak currency, composed of \$1,893,134 in notes and \$636,807 in coins. There was an increase of \$1,941,125 Malayan currency in circulation during the year. \$1,473,587 of Sarawak currency notes was withdrawn during the same period. The circulation figure for Sarawak currency coins at 31st December, 1949, remained unchanged.

Banking.

Banking facilities in Sarawak are provided by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China in Kuching and Sibu and the Oversea Chinese Banking Corporation in Kuching. The Chartered Bank were preparing to open a branch in Miri early in 1950.

In addition there are three Chinese trading banks in Sarawak: the Bian Chiang Bank, the Kwong Lee Bank, and the Wah Tat Bank.

Post Office Savings Bank.

The number of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank at the end of 1949 was 3,068 as compared with 2,675 at the end of 1948. The amount of credit to depositors was \$982,753 as against \$868,058 in 1948. During the year deposits amounted to \$570,935 which exceeded withdrawals by \$102,175.

CHAPTER 5.

Commerce.

Commercial Activities.

There are now several firms specialising in the extraction and export of timber; there is a company confining its activities to the production of cutch, and most important of all there is of course the oil company (Sarawak Oilfields Ltd.).

Apart from these, the firms engaged in the commerce of the Colony may be said to fall, roughly speaking, into two main groups:

- (i) The Agency Houses, of which there are few, and
- (ii) The Chinese Merchants, of which there are many.

The Agency Houses, i.e. the leading European firms, import, either from the United Kingdom, Singapore or other countries of the Empire, proprietary articles for which they are the sole distributors. These firms hold a number of such important agencies as buyers for their own account, but in other cases they undertake more the functions of a branch office of their principals (the marketing organisations of the great combines). In addition to the sale of goods, these firms conduct insurance and other business and engage in the purchase and export of produce in competition with the Chinese merchants. They also act as agents and secretaries for the few large rubber estates that exist, and carry on other activities which come, more properly, under the heading of "Production", e.g. the timber business.

The Chinese Merchants may be said to engage in the wholesale and retail distribution of goods and the purchase of local produce. Some indeed act as agency houses, but only on a much smaller scale than do the European firms.

Since the trade of Sarawak is very closely linked with that of Singapore, comparatively few consignments of goods arrive in the Colony direct from the United Kingdom, Australia or other sources, i.e. upon a through bill of lading (and even this would normally necessitate transhipment in Singapore). Most of the things imported are drawn from bulk supplies held by Singapore merchants, or from the large

Singapore distribution depots. Similarly, most of the general produce of the country finds its way to Singapore for sorting, grading, bulking and re-export, although shipments of sago and rubber to other countries are now becoming more frequent.

The importation of goods from the United Kingdom and other distant sources is almost entirely left to the few European firms, but generally speaking the whole trade of the country passes, at some stage or other, through the Chinese merchants, who carry on what might be described as a "small shop" trade. In the larger towns and bazaars there are, of course, some shops, which engage solely in the sale of goods for cash (and some of these are Indian shops), but many are usually to be found that combine the purchase of rubber and other produce with the sale of sundry goods and Chinese groceries, if so ordinary a term can be given to the great variety of oriental foodstuffs they display: sharks' fins, birdsnests, salted squids, *blachan* (prawn-paste) and dried fish vie with the weird and pungent fruits of the East, spices, and all kinds of vegetables, fresh, dried and preserved.

The more important shops in the towns are usually linked with associate Chinese firms in Singapore, which keep them supplied with goods and receive their produce. Similarly the Chinese firms in Sarawak have their associates in up-river and coastal bazaars. These they supply with goods. In return they receive the rubber and jungle produce, which has been obtained by sale or barter. Such jungle produce consists chiefly of rattan cane, *damar* and various types of guttas, of which *jelutong* is employed in the manufacture of chewing-gum, and such piquant items as dragons' blood and ant-eater skins which are more interesting than important.

Most of this jungle produce comes from remote districts where the needs of the natives, which they cannot and do not provide themselves, are very few, but the up-river Chinese trader knows how to cater for the whims and fancies of the Dayaks, who may set their hearts on any object, but have a natural partiality for gold and silver ornaments. The other things they venerate vary with the local tribal custom, and amongst these are a certain type of earthenware jar, large, glazed and urnlike in appearance, and brass gongs. Shot-guns are universally esteemed for utility and prestige.

Very little weaving is now done, so that imported cloth has become a virtual necessity. Apart from this, in some

The Port of Kuching.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison.





Kelabit skinning a monkey.

Copyright Sarawak Museum.

places, far from the towns, very little more than salt and oils for lighting and cooking are really needed by the natives except when the local padi harvest fails, or is short, but it is interesting to note how great is the variety of goods normally to be found even in the remotest bazaar. Such are the ramifications of this "small shop" trade.

Certain Chinese firms carry on an extensive business in the purchase of sago flour for export, and this is in the nature of a specialised trade.

Pepper production was on the decline before the Japanese invasion, because of the great element of speculation as to the price that the crop, when ultimately produced, would fetch, and during the Japanese occupation it was abandoned altogether, but in the past Chinese merchants have financed the pepper gardeners by a system of "grub-staking", and they are again considering it worth their while to do so.

External Trade.

The aggregate value of the external trade of the Colony for the year 1949 was \$297,598,019 as compared with \$270,020,772 for the year 1948 and \$78,415,599 for the pre-occupation year 1940.

This total is made up as follows:—

	<i>1949</i>
Total Exports	... \$187,628,559
Total Imports	... 109,969,460
Favourable Trade Balance	... \$ 77,659,099

Trade Balance.

The apparent favourable trade balance of \$77,659,099 does not show a very clear picture in view of the fact that in the total exports of \$187,628,559 exports and re-exports of petroleum account for no less than \$135,117,901.

Crude oil is piped to the refinery at Lutong in Sarawak from the adjoining territory of Brunei, the value of such imports being \$60,131,142. Crude oil from wells in Sarawak is also treated at the same refinery, and both crude and refined petroleum is included in the total value of exports.

Disregarding the value of imports and exports resulting from the crude oil won in the territory of Brunei and in

Sarawak itself, the favourable trade balance for 1949 would be \$2,672,340 as follows:—

Total Exports	...	\$52,510,658
Total Imports	...	49,838,318
	...	<u>\$ 2,672,340</u>

While the figure of \$77,659,099 can be regarded as an overstatement of the true trade balance, so also may \$2,672,340 be regarded as too modest, in that it does not take into consideration the production of oil in Sarawak.

Imports.

The declared value of imports for 1949 was \$109,969,460 made up as follows:—

as compared with :			
	1949.	1948.	1940.
	\$	\$	\$
Foodstuffs	... 19,414,554	21,082,912	9,770,805
Textiles, wearing apparel, etc.	5,342,172	5,839,503	2,796,708
Petroleum, crude and refined	62,615,909	48,761,085	8,844,626
Tobacco	.. 5,003,112	5,491,009	2,556,131
Manufactured goods and sundries	... 17,593,713	17,595,376	8,850,609
	<u>109,969,460</u>	<u>98,769,885</u>	<u>32,818,879</u>

During the year the basic foodstuffs, i.e. rice, flour and sugar, were the only commodities imported on Government procurement. Butter, meats, fats and cheese, though still on quota, were procured through normal commercial channels. The supply of consumer goods was adequate but bazaar trade was dull until the devaluation of the £ sterling which, in terms of local currency, resulted in an improvement in the price of rubber, the Colony's main industry, and thus increased the purchasing power of the populace. This improvement in purchasing power brought about by devaluation was, however, offset to some extent, as a result of the same cause, by a general rise in the cost of imported commodities.

The cost of basic foodstuffs, rice and flour, showed a further advance on that of 1948, while sugar, salt and milk decreased, the declared values being:—

		1949.		1948.
Rice	...	\$ 468.12 per ton		\$ 417.64 per ton
Flour	...	465.84 , ,		389.47 , ,
Sugar	...	449.52 , ,		518.02 , ,
Salt	...	56.11 , ,		67.56 , ,
Milk	...	1,269.90 , ,		1,280.66 , ,

Compared with 1940 values the 1949 values show an advance of:—

Rice	...	4.91 times
Flour	...	3.78 , ,
Sugar	...	2.74 , ,
Salt	...	1.15 , ,
Milk	...	2 , ,

Exports.

The f.o.b. value of exports for 1949, \$187,628,559, was made up as shown below:—

		1949.	as compared with :	1948.	1940.
		\$		\$	\$
Petroleum, crude and refined	...	135,117,901		111,753,896	11,446,818
Rubber	...	31,545,400		34,532,924	26,167,140
Sago Flour	...	4,699,629		11,124,325	2,184,997
Pepper	...	2,025,997		1,159,242	362,569
Jelutong	...	1,182,665		2,228,479	775,209
Various guttas	...	247,414		363,020	145,930
Damar	...	416,544		389,559	88,688
Sundries	...	12,393,009		9,699,442	4,599,056
		<hr/> <u>187,628,559</u>		<hr/> <u>171,250,887</u>	<hr/> <u>45,770,407</u>

As against 1948, exports of petroleum (crude and refined) rose from 2,599,897 tons to 3,312,823 tons. It is not possible for the reason already given to assess the true value these exports have in the Colony's economy. Crude oil actually won in the Colony amounted to 56,752 long tons as against 46,597 long tons in 1948.

Exports of rubber decreased slightly from 39,884 tons in 1948 to 38,901 in 1949; the average price obtained was also lower. An encouraging feature of the Colony's rubber exports is the increase of shipments on through bills of lading. During the year such shipments were made to no less than sixteen different countries. Before the war, rubber was shipped only to Singapore where the grading and bulking

was done; now the Singapore exporting houses find it to their advantage to have the grading and bulking done in Sarawak and shipped on through bills, thus avoiding high handling charges in Singapore. There are now two rubber grading and packing plants in the Colony.

Towards the end of the year a few small quantities of pepper from vines planted since the war were exported. All, unfortunately, were of low quality. In order to obtain a quicker return pepper planters have been inclined to permit their vines to go to fruit earlier than was the recognised practice before the war. The prospects of the Colony's pepper industry are bright and the next few years should see the return of "Sarawak White Pepper" on the world markets in quantity.

The new legislation dealing with exports of sago flour which came into force on the 1st May, 1949, has undoubtedly resulted in a higher grade of sago flour being exported. All shipments have been inspected and approved by the Customs Department before shipment. This should have a beneficial effect upon the reputation of Sarawak sago flour in the world markets. Local exporters have been able to negotiate contracts for shipment under their own marks and as a result exports to the Singapore market declined consistently during the course of the year. On the other hand shipments on through bills of lading have been made from Sarawak to no less than seven different countries. Whereas in 1948 38,432 tons were exported to Singapore out of a total of 49,751 tons, in 1949 only 8,450 tons went to the Singapore market out of a total export of 27,081 tons.

Timber exports have again shown a very encouraging trend, the year's exports being:—

36,607 tons valued at \$2,018,896
as against 21,128 tons valued at \$1,158,335 for 1948.

Most of this timber has been shipped from Tanjong Mani near the mouth of the Rejang River.

During the year no less than 24 vessels loaded at Tanjong Mani. These vessels ranged in tonnage from just under 2,000 to 4,300 nett registered tons. In addition to timber, shipments of cutch, a tanning extract, are now almost invariably made from Tanjong Mani on through bills of lading to Japan. This point of shipment is of great convenience to the cutch and timber companies.

Customs and Excise.

The total Customs revenue for 1949 amounted to \$9,600,349, made up as follows:—

			as compared with :	
			1949.	1948.
				1940.
Import Duty	...	\$5,879,267	\$ 5,360,903	\$2,252,028
Export Duty	...	3,721,082	5,313,526	1,278,254
		<u>\$9,600,349</u>	<u>\$10,674,429</u>	<u>\$3,530,282</u>

The decrease in revenue was the result of a fall in the price of rubber, the duty being imposed *ad valorem*, and of a decline in the quantity of sago flour exported.

There were no changes in the tariffs during the year.

As in previous years, the principal concern of the Customs Department has been with native-type tobacco, of which it is suspected that considerable quantities are both smuggled across the Indonesian border and brought in by sea. The opportunities for this trade are so numerous that it is quite impossible to prevent it altogether and, as long as tobacco retains its present high duty of \$4 a *kati*, it is certain that smuggling will continue. Though there have been few seizures, preventive measures seem to have had some effect and there is evidence of an improvement in the position during the year, in that the local price of tobacco has risen slightly and normal imports have become more frequent.

There is as yet no Excise Ordinance, but revenue was collected on excise lines from two factories manufacturing under licence under the Monopolies Ordinance. These were the Raga Chemical Works at Pending, 6 miles from Kuching, which produced a wine fortified with alcohol, and the Sarawak Match Factory. Revenue collected from the former amounted to \$10,217 and from the latter to \$96,480.

The Customs Department is still considerably handicapped by lack of experienced and educated outdoor staff. Over half of the customs officers have been recruited since the war and all had had their education seriously curtailed by the Japanese occupation. Work has been hampered by inadequacy of godown space, but plans are in hand for the erection of a large import godown in Kuching.

CHAPTER 6.

Production.

AGRICULTURE.

It is estimated that an area of about 13,000 square miles is used for agricultural purposes. This includes land occupied by tree crops and land used for hill padi cultivation. A recent survey has shown that approximately 5,600 square miles of the delta and coastal regions consist of deep peat swamp unsuitable as it stands for agricultural purposes. There are, however, considerable areas of good swamp padi land in the delta regions. There are small areas of good well-drained soils suitable for tree and shrub crops, particularly in the Fourth and Fifth Divisions, but on the whole the soils are very poor judged by normal standards. Favourable climatic conditions do, however, to some extent counteract the general poverty of the soils.

The average annual rainfall is of the order of 160 inches. In the south-western part of the country there is a definite period of maximum rainfall during the months of December, January and February. In the north-eastern half of the country the maxima and minima are not so pronounced and the distribution of rainfall is far more uniform. Atmospheric humidity is generally very high. Sunshine records have only recently been started, but it would appear that the general average for the country will be in the nature of 5 hours' bright sunshine a day.

Apart from five large rubber estates, small native farmers are responsible for most of the agriculture of the country. The policy is to encourage the development of the country's agriculture by the native farmer working a mixed system of farming rather than development by the large specialised plantation. It is now generally agreed that a measure of control over the farmer will be necessary if progress is to be made in accordance with this policy, and that this control can best be exercised through the establishment of what are now generally termed "group-farming" units.

Legislation of far-reaching importance to agricultural development in Sarawak was enacted during 1949 in the form of the Natural Resources Ordinance, the object of which is to

control the destructive systems of shifting cultivation referred to below.

The chief agricultural products of Sarawak are as follows :—

(a) *Padi*. This is the main crop. Before the war Sarawak had to import an annual average of 33,000 tons of rice to supplement her own production. Imports have continued since the war on quotas allocated by the International Emergency Food Committee, the figures for the last three years being :—

1947	...	19,272 metric tons,
1948	...	17,525 metric tons,
1949	...	11,517 metric tons.

The progressive decline in imports has been due to a considerable increase in padi production, and in the last two years it has not been necessary to take up the whole rice quota.

Undoubtedly a great incentive to farmers to plant padi has been given by the Government's padi purchase scheme, inaugurated at the end of 1946, when it was announced that Government was prepared to purchase local grown padi and rice at fixed minimum prices of 55 cents per *gantang* of padi and \$1.30 per *gantang* of rice. No rice was in fact purchased, but the padi purchasing scheme proved so successful that it has been decided to continue it in each succeeding year. It has gone some way towards ensuring the cultivator an adequate return for his labour, besides helping to reduce the Colony's dependence on imported rice. Purchases of padi during the three years in which the scheme has been in operation were :—

1947	55,085 piculs	(roughly 197 tons of rice)
1948	72,074 piculs	(roughly 257 tons of rice)
1949	89,071 piculs	(roughly 318 tons of rice)

The bulk of the purchases were made in the Fourth and Fifth Divisions.

Owing to poor communications and shortage of technical staff, it is not at present possible to make an accurate estimate of the acreage covered by padi, but there is no doubt that Sarawak as a whole is approaching self-sufficiency in rice, its staple foodstuff. A destructive method of shifting hill/dry padi cultivation, which is bringing very serious problems in its train, accounts for a considerable part of the padi

produced. Swamp/wet padi is cultivated, but the methods employed are usually primitive and yields are often low. The 1948-49 swamp/wet padi crop was generally good, but the hill/dry crop was disappointing.

(b) *Rubber* is the chief tree crop and Sarawak's most important export. It was estimated in 1941 that there were approximately 240,000 acres under rubber, of which 10,580 acres were on five large estates, the remainder being accounted for by native holdings each less than 5 acres in extent. It is possible that the acreage has increased during and since the war. Most of it is occupied by old seedling rubber in very poor condition which must be regarded as a wasting asset. Technique of management, tapping and sheet manufacture are generally of a very low standard. Adequate budwood is now available for smallholders who wish to replant with high-yielding material.

(c) *Sago*. It is estimated that there are about 150,000 acres used for sago cultivation, the major part being concentrated in the Mukah, Oya and Dalat regions of the Third Division and mainly worked by Melanaus. No detailed information as to the number of palms and their age and condition is at present available but, taking account of land under fallow and of land occupied by young, immature palms, it is estimated that about 75,000 acres can at present be regarded as under productive sago. For a time after the liberation production of sago flour was at a high level and there is no doubt that the plantations were being overworked as a result; the quality of the product too was often very poor. More recently, due to a fall in prices, production has dropped considerably and is now more in accord with rates of regeneration and replanting. Since the passing of the Sago Flour (Control of Exports) Ordinance, 1948, export of sago flour that does not reach a specified minimum standard of quality has been prohibited; on the whole the trade has co-operated extremely well in the matter, and there has been a major improvement in the general quality of sago flour exported from Sarawak.

(d) *Pepper* was an important export product before the war and the quality was generally good, but most of the gardens were abandoned during the Japanese occupation. Considerable replanting has taken place recently and there is little doubt that the number of tended vines is now near the pre-war total. A recent estimate suggests that a total of



Kelabit system of clearing and irrigating jungle.

Copyright Sarawak Museum.



Pepper vine, Tarat Agricultural Station.

Photograph by K. E. H. Kay.

nearly 500,000 vines are now being cultivated, and the number is increasing rapidly, no doubt due to the excellent market prospects for pepper. All the vines are planted in small gardens, mostly less than $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in extent and often very much smaller. It is expected that about 1,000 *piculs* of dry pepper will be produced in 1950 and that in subsequent years there will be a steady increase in production if prices remain at a reasonable level. Unfortunately, most of the pepper in Sarawak is still cultivated under a most pernicious system of shifting cultivation. It is hoped that it will be possible to minimise the worst effects of this system by powers now available under the Natural Resources Ordinance, 1949, referred to above.

(e) *Coconuts* are mainly a smallholder's crop, largely confined to the First Division. The total acreage occupied by the crop is estimated at 21,000 acres, though many of the palms are known to be old and in very poor condition. Some copra and coconut oil are exported.

(f) *Tuba Root (derris)* has been cultivated in the past, but production and export are now negligible. Planting is being encouraged as there is a good export demand, but there is still a shortage of suitable planting material.

(g) *Gambier* was an important product many years ago, but production is now negligible.

(h) *Pineapples* of high quality and exceptional flavour are produced in small quantities on drained peat soils.

(i) *Tobacco*. Small areas are planted by the natives for their own use. The quality of the product can probably be improved.

(j) *Coffee* is cultivated to a small extent round the villages.

(k) *Cocoa* is not yet cultivated by farmers in Sarawak, but some observation plots recently established by the Department of Agriculture show some promise.

(l) *Fresh fruit and vegetables* adequate for local needs are produced near the towns by Chinese market gardeners.

So little information with regard to agricultural conditions in Sarawak had been recorded before the war that a great deal of the work of the Department of Agriculture since it came into being in its present form in 1946 has consisted of preliminary surveys and investigational work. But

it has now been possible to start some developmental work, in spite of acute shortage of trained and experienced technical staff. Financial assistance for this work is being received from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, and indeed without this assistance progress would be impossible. In present circumstances it is inevitable that the main projects should be near Kuching, but as the staff situation improves it is hoped to start similar projects in other Divisions.

The work at the Tarat Agricultural Station (34½ miles from Kuching on the road to Serian) is already impressive. Three years ago most of the land on the station was derelict and infested with *lalang* (*Imperata spp.*), but it has been shown in a striking way that it is economically possible to reclaim such land, provided that it is not too steep, and to utilise it for intensive stabilised cultivation of tree and shrub crops. The demonstration pepper plots are particularly impressive and the Department's nurseries have been a most valuable source of pepper-planting material for the country. A further important contribution to the spectacular recovery of the pepper industry has been distribution by the Department at low prices of considerable quantities of local bird and bat guano.

The group-farming project that has been recently started at Paya Megok, some 27 miles from Kuching, is full of promise. The main object of this scheme is intensive production of padi by modern methods, but other crops and certain livestock will also receive attention. An important aspect of the scheme is the experimental use of modern machinery, both for cultivation and for irrigation.

The Department has now established rubber budwood nurseries, and adequate supplies of budwood of high-yielding strains are now available for distribution to smallholders.

LAND.

Applications for new land.

Applications for Crown land for various purposes during the year amounted to a total of 27,157 acres from 5693 applicants, as compared with 31,303 acres from 4562 applicants in 1948.

The 1949 applications are classified as follows:—

<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>No. of Applications</i>
Sago	5919	788
Padi	5740	1581
Miscellaneous Food Crops	3882	570
Rubber	3823	777
Coconut	3525	575
Pepper	2388	538
Ordinary Agricultural	647	200
Fruit	638	216
Vegetable	265	67
Building	163	304
Miscellaneous	95	72
Cattle Grazing	72	5
TOTAL	27,157	5693

At the beginning of the year there were 4398 applications waiting to be dealt with and during the year the following applications were dealt with in the following manner:—

(a) Surveyed during the year	...	4046
(b) Applications for land already surveyd	...	362
(c) Applications cancelled, withdrawn or dis- allowed	...	1004
(d) Applications for which title issued with- out survey	...	49

This left arrears of applications not dealt with at the end of the year of 4630, an increase in arrears of 232.

Dealings in alienated land.

Some 6716 instruments were registered during the year; they comprised:—

Transfers	...	3016	Miscellaneous (i.e.
Charges	...	1046	Deeds of Ex-
Release of Charges	869		change, etc.) ... 369
Sub-leases	44		Power of Attorney
Surrender to Crown	274		or Revocation ... 134
Court Orders	15		Transmission by
Partition Orders	28		Probate Officers
Letters of Adminis- tration	278		in the case of
Caveats	120		small estates ... 527

Issue of titles for Crown land.

Some 3243 leases were issued during the year for approved applications, making the total number of titles extant at 31st December, 1949, 106,663.

Miscellaneous.

Requests for subdivision of alienated land totalled 255, while miscellaneous inspections of land were 868.

Settlement operations.

A systematic investigation into the problem of non-indigenous infiltration into native lands was undertaken during the year. In the First Division a settlement officer was appointed, whose responsibility is to investigate illegal occupation of land and to resettle on suitable land those non-indigenous squatters who are genuinely landless. At the same time the definition and permanent recording of native farming rights in the affected areas was undertaken, in order to secure and protect native interests.

In the Third Division a survey of the native farming lands and non-indigenous infiltration of the Rejang Delta was undertaken with a view to following a similar procedure there in 1950, when an experienced officer of the Land and Survey Department is available for settlement work.

When surveys are in the final stage of adequate control for permanent record, the Land Settlement Ordinance will be introduced in these areas.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY.

Animal husbandry at present plays but a small part in Sarawak's rural economy. Bullocks are rarely seen. Some herds of buffaloes estimated at a total of 5,600 head are kept in the Fifth Division and are used for meat and for cultivating the wet padi fields, but in other parts of the country the number of buffaloes is negligible. Small herds of dairy cows are kept near the towns by Indians. Chinese small-holders keep pigs and poultry for their own use and for the supply of pork and eggs to local markets. Goats are kept to a small extent by the Malays. Poultry for home use are seen in the villages of both Malays and Dayaks. Pigs are always to be found in and around Dayak villages. Schemes for the development of animal husbandry in Sarawak with assistance from the Colonial Development and Welfare

Fund are being prepared. Strict control is now exercised over the import of livestock into Sarawak under the Animal Health Ordinance.

FISHERIES.

Under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme for a survey of Sarawak's fisheries, a Fisheries Survey Officer arrived early in 1948 and a Master Fisherman later in the year. During 1948 a motor fishing vessel was purchased and fitted out, and a preliminary survey conducted of the villages and fishing areas in the vicinity of Kuching.

Fishing started in earnest in 1949 and for the first five months of the year was confined to Kuching waters. During this period the Danish seine method was extensively used; this is a net 36 fathoms long and narrowing at each end; 600 fathoms of line are fastened to the two ends and attached to the boat in order to form a bag, which is then drawn along the sea bottom, usually at high speed, and hauled in about every $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours. This mode of fishing is well suited to Sarawak waters, where the bottom is mainly mud and usually free from rock or coral. Large catches of second quality fish of great variety were often landed and on one occasion a haul contained 5 *piculs*.

Experiments were also conducted in long line fishing. Each line carried a total of 120 hooks and at no time were more than three lines in operation. By this method fair quantities of second and third quality fish were caught and, although this may be potentially the means of landing large catches of fish, it was not tried on a sufficiently large scale accurately to predict results. Long line fishing was more popular with the Malays than the Danish seine method, as it does not require great expenditure of labour.

Towards the end of the year it was decided to develop the fish traps peculiar to Borneo, known as *bubu*, and to improve them for large-scale use on the motor fishing vessel. These traps consist of small rectangular cages with a funnel-shaped lead-in to permit entry of the fish, and they are sunk deep into the water, their position being marked by bamboo floats. Traps were manufactured, based on the native design, and by the end of the year eight were in commission. The most successful experiments have been carried out in 15 to 20 fathoms of water, and results seem to indicate that this method of fishing is likely to be of outstanding success.

The use of improved native-type traps operated from the winch of a small motor fishing vessel certainly seems to be the method most suited to Sarawak, and is a means of catching fair quantities of first quality fish.

The survey has shown that great improvement in fishing technique is possible and that the development of primitive methods and gear may establish the fishing industry as a staple one in Sarawak. A necessary corollary must be the establishment of an adequate and fair marketing system, which at present does not exist, owing to the virtual monopoly of the Kuching "fish ring" and the consequent very high price of fish.

FORESTRY.

The Forests of the Colony may be classified as evergreen rain forests, and consist of three main types:—

(a) *Mangrove forest* which occurs in the deltas of the main rivers, and produces firewood, charcoal and cutch, a tanning extract obtained from mangrove bark.

(b) *Inland Swamp (fresh water) forest*. This is very extensive, producing fair quality timber and minor forest produce, the most valuable of which is *jelutong*, a wild latex obtained from *Dyera Lowii*.

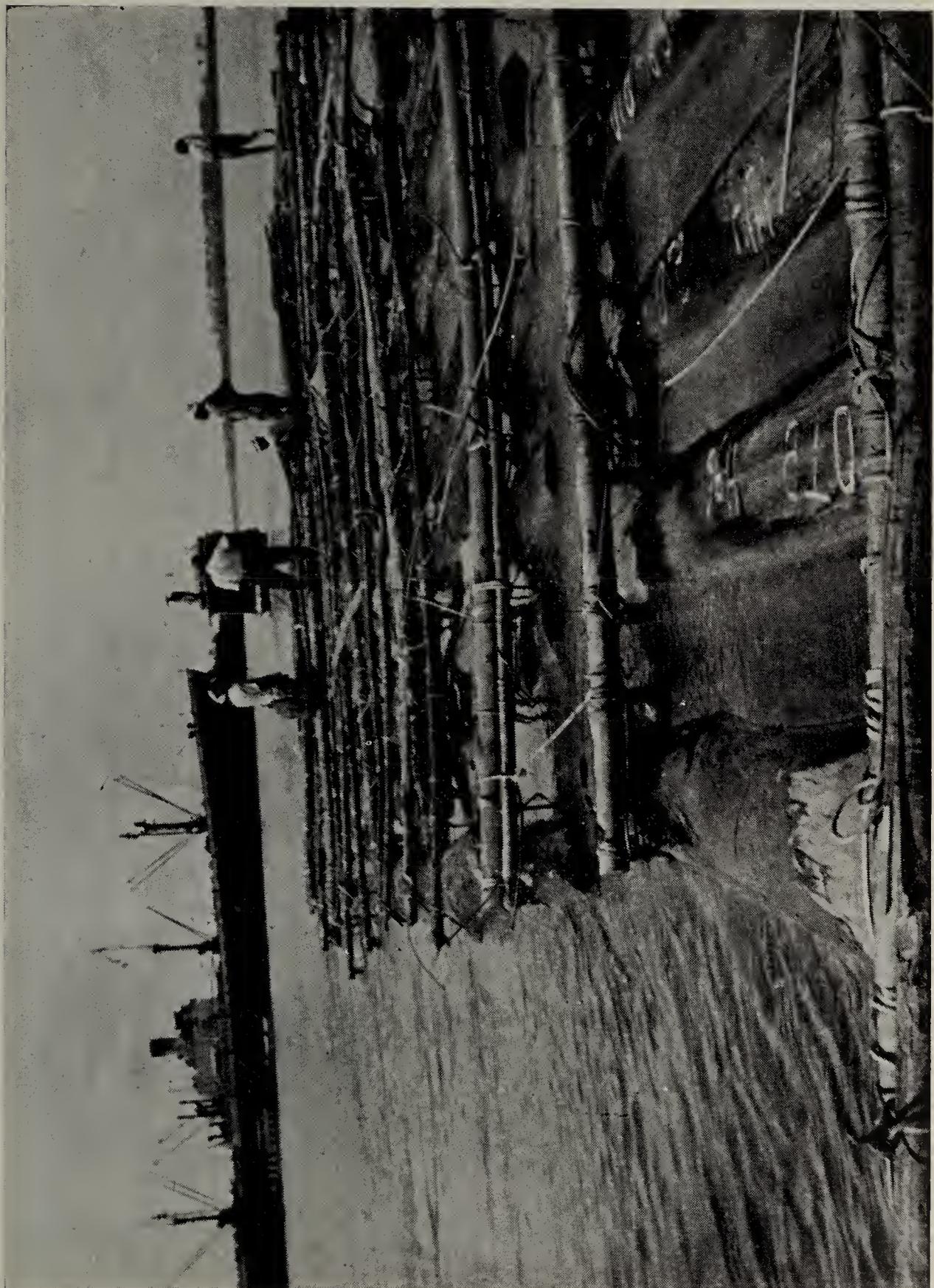
(c) *Dry or hill forest*. This is the best type of forest, producing valuable timber, both hardwoods and semi-hardwoods, and also minor forest produce such as rotans, resins and a limited amount of wild latex from a species of *Dyera* found in dry forest. This type of forest was at one time very extensive, but a large proportion of the more accessible areas have been destroyed by shifting cultivation.

The forest products of the Colony fall under two heads, referred to as major and minor forest produce.

(i) *Major forest produce*. This includes timber and firewood. Domestic requirements of timber are met by 29 small or medium-sized sawmills. Of these, seven have an average monthly output of 125 tons or over and export their surplus stock. The expansion of this export trade both in sawn lumber and in peeler logs to Australia, China, South Africa and the United Kingdom has greatly increased during the current year, due to improved shipping facilities. During the year 24 ocean-going vessels entered the estuary of the Rejang River to load at the deep-water point at Tanjong

S.S. *Tydens* (7,284 tons) loading timber for Sydney at
Gunong Ayer in the Rejang River.

Photograph by Pacific Traders (Borneo) Ltd.



Saban from near Lio Matu, Baram River, making a casting net (*jala*).



Mani, in addition to transhipments made through Labuan and Singapore. There are seven timber enterprises under European management established or in the process of initiation. One firm imported five elephants from Siam and is reported to be considering the importation of yet another six of these animals. Great enterprise was shown by one Australian firm in successfully solving the problem of exploiting the freshwater swamp areas by means of rails and a small petrol-driven locomotive. The future of the timber industry remains most encouraging.

The following figures show the total production of timber and the quantity exported during 1949 as compared with 1948:—

	<i>Total production</i> (Cubic feet)	<i>Exported</i> (Cubic feet)
1948	... 2,089,050	980,100
1949	... 3,506,800	1,925,600

In addition 32,287 long tons of firewood and charcoal were produced as compared with 27,747 long tons in 1948. The increase is due to the expansion of the firewood export trade which has developed with Hongkong.

(ii) *Minor forest produce.* The principal minor forest products exported were wild rubber, canes (*rotan*) and resins (*damar*). The most important of these is *jelutong*, a wild rubber used in the manufacture of chewing gum. Production was affected by market fluctuations. The future of this industry is somewhat uncertain. Rumour has it that a synthetic substitute will oust the natural product during the next five years.

There was a small crop of illipe nuts, known locally as *engkabang*. The kernels, producing a valuable fat, are produced by various *Shorea spp.*, mainly *Shorea Gysbertiana* and *Shorea Martiniana*. Fruiting is erratic, occurring at roughly four-year intervals, and the next heavy crop is expected in 1950-51. Arrangements have been made with the Ministry of Food to purchase the future crop at a guaranteed price.

In 1949, the production of wild rubbers of all types was 1342 long tons, canes 1774 long tons and resins 1980 long tons.

There is also a considerable internal trade in roofing thatch (*atap*) and walling (*kajang*) made from the leaves of the *nipa* palm (*Nipa fruticans*) which is abundant in the coastal swamps.

MINERAL RESOURCES AND OUTPUT IN 1949.

The mineral resources of Sarawak comprise oil, gold, coal, antimony, mercury, diamonds, limestone used for lime manufacture and possibly suitable for cement, clay used for bricks and some types of pottery, building stone, and phosphate. Small occurrences of silver, lead, copper, gypsum, and iron ore have been recorded, sapphires are known to have been found and salt is worked by native methods in the interior; aluminium ore has recently been discovered. In 1949 only oil was being produced on a large scale by modern methods; seven Chinese gold mines were operating, one mercury deposit was being prospected, small amounts of lime, bricks and phosphate were being produced and stone was being quarried. The oilfields of north-east Sarawak and the gold in the west are the mineral deposits that have received the closest examination, but, in common with the other minerals, a large amount of work remains to be carried out before the potentialities are known. Mineral occurrences, particularly of gold, coal, antimony and mercury, are widely reported. The present Government policy is to try to foster mining, and steps to this end were taken in 1949 by the introduction of a modern Mining Ordinance, establishment of a Geological Survey Department (which serves the three British Borneo territories) and temporary removal of some of the mineral royalties.

The most important mineral development in 1949 was the discovery of high-grade aluminium ore in west Sarawak. This deposit is now being tested by the British Aluminium Company.

During 1949 there were 24 mining leases covering 3,930 acres of land. This was the only land alienated for mining, excluding oil rights which are held by Sarawak Oil-fields, Limited.

The following figures show the production of different minerals during 1949, as compared with 1948:—

	1949.	1948.
OIL: output to nearest hundred barrels. (Each barrel contains 42 U.S. gallons) ...	413,000	343,000
GOLD: production in fine ounces	1,523	599
ANTIMONY: production in long tons ...	$2\frac{1}{2}$	9
PHOSPHATE: output in piculs ...	8,400 (Estimated)	7,056

Lime, bricks and roadstone were also produced, but the exact output is unknown.

Although little has been published about Sarawak's minerals, they have received attention in the past. Between 1850 and 1900 there appears to have been an energetic search for deposits, particularly coal, also antimony, mercury and gold. Investigations were made by individuals employed by private concerns as well as by the Government. Unfortunately virtually none of the information resulting from the work was published and records available are insufficient for assessing the full extent of the investigations. Minerals have, however, played an important part in Sarawak's development. From 1823, after the discovery that antimony ore had a ready market, they have figured prominently in the country's economy. Until about 1885, antimony ore was generally the most important mineral produced and, in the early days, often Sarawak's leading export. Mercury was the leading mineral product for five of the six years between 1874 and 1879 inclusive, but after 1887 output declined and became negligible ten years later. Coal was the main mineral export between 1889 and 1898, after which gold took its place and headed the list continuously from 1899 until 1920. From this time onwards oil has been the leading mineral export. The relationship of Sarawak's mineral products to the country's total exports is shown in the table below:

Sarawak Mineral Production.

Year.	Value of Sarawak Produce Exported.	Value of Mineral Exports.	Percentage of Mineral exports to exports of Sarawak Produce.	Mineral Royalties paid to the Sarawak Government.	REMARKS. (Mineral exports in their order of value; the most valuable export is shown first).
1868	N.A.	38,001	—	N.A.	Antimony, quicksilver, gold, diamonds.
1878	809,325	83,086	10	13,333	Antimony, quicksilver, gold, diamonds.
1888	1,322,325	118,915	09	8,889	Antimony, coal, quicksilver, gold.
1898	3,089,017	323,230	10	10,177	Coal, antimony, gold, quicksilver.
1908	5,732,723	1,177,266	21	77,367	Gold, coal, antimony, quicksilver.
1918	9,221,459	N.A.	—	98,109	Gold, oil, coal.
1928	53,302,340	39,208,846	74	770,835	Oil.
1938	23,244,666	12,842,134	54	387,636	Oil, gold, silver.
1948	166,023,615	111,820,069	67	67,320*	Oil, gold, antimony.

All values given in Sarawak dollars, fixed at 2s. 4d. sterling since 1906.

N.A.=not available.

*Estimated oil royalty and mining rents and fees; most of the oil exported during 1948 was produced in Brunei.

OTHER INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION.

The Island Trading Company, at Selalang in the Third Division, which has been in operation since 1909, manufactures cutch (a tanning extract) from the mangrove bark. The Company's activities have earned a considerable amount of U.S. dollars since the war.

There are also a few minor industries such as the manufacture of matches, soap and aerated waters and the curing of fish.

SURVEY AND MAPPING.

Revenue surveys comprised some 2532 miles of boundary surveys and 382 miles of theodolite control.

Topographical surveys were confined generally to provision of ground control for twelve 1/50,000 sheets in the First and Second Divisions. To meet the increasing demand

for topographical information before the 1/50,000 mapping is complete, rough lucigram mosaics have been prepared for the area covered by air photography undertaken by the Royal Air Force in 1947 and 1948. Owing to their commitments in Malaya in connection with the emergency, the Royal Air Force were unable to continue air photography in 1949. At the end of the year 9250 square miles were covered by these mosaics and 844 copies made for distribution to the Forest, Agriculture and Geological Survey Departments.

The total cost of the Land and Survey Department for the year was \$507,547.

CHAPTER 7.

Social Services.

Education

Historical Introduction

A Department of Education was first created in 1924 when a Director was appointed. During the depression of the early thirties the Department was closed and the schools became the part-time responsibility of the appropriate sections of the Administrative Service. It was not until 1939 that the post of Director was revived, and even then the Chinese Affairs Department continued to be responsible for the Chinese Schools. In April, 1946, on the resumption of the Civil Government after the Japanese occupation, the Education Department was reconstituted by seconding an Administrative Officer to act as Director in charge of all educational services including the Chinese Schools system. During 1947 an Educational Adviser was appointed to act as Director, and the number of Education Officers was increased to two. During 1948 the senior staff was further increased by the transfer of an Agricultural Education Officer from the Agricultural Department and by the appointment of an Assistant Principal for the new Teacher-training Centre.

During the war 17 schools were totally destroyed, and 35 others damaged, as a direct result of the fighting. At most other schools furniture and equipment were looted and buildings became dilapidated because necessary repairs were neglected. During the four years of Japanese occupation most of the Government Malay Schools continued to function but attendances were low and attempts to introduce the teaching of the Japanese language met with little success. All the Mission Schools remained closed and the teaching of English ceased completely. Some of the Chinese Schools continued to function, but enrolments fell and attempts to pervert those that remained to centres of propaganda failed.

On the arrival of the British Military Administration in November, 1945, immediate steps were taken to restore educational services. Government Schools and the Malay Teacher-training College were re-opened, the work of the Mission urban schools was resumed and the Chinese Schools

were re-established with commendable rapidity. Rehabilitation and development continued successfully under the Civil Government and at the end of 1949 the School population had risen to approximately 35,800 compared with 19,000 in 1940.

General and Administration.

During 1949 the senior staff was increased by the addition of four Education Officers, of whom one was seconded to Brunei as State Education Officer, and one Lady Education Officer. Of the three new Education Officers in Sarawak one was posted to act as Principal of the Government Training Centre and School at Batu Lintang where he will introduce the teaching of science; one was posted to the First Division and one opened an Education Office at Sibu in the Third Division where there is a large number of Chinese Schools. The Lady Education Officer is responsible for the improvement and expansion of the education of women and girls of all races.

During the year there was a considerable expansion in the system of primary education under the control of Local Authorities. The first five of these Authorities were constituted during 1948 and these took over or established 18 Primary Schools. During 1949 a further eleven Authorities were established and the number of schools controlled and financed by Local Authorities rose to 40. In some cases agreement has been reached between a Local Authority and a Mission body for the handing over of a school to the Authority.

This system of "Local Authority Schools" provides the first facilities for the local peoples to begin to consider the provision of social services under their own auspices and the solution of the financial problems involved. This organisation will enable the local peoples to decide the pace at which the ideal of free compulsory primary education for all boys and girls in the area can be achieved.

The greatly increased interest in education shown since the Liberation by the indigenous peoples other than the Malays was maintained during 1949. The number of children of these peoples attending school at the end of 1949 was 5,300, representing an increase of 25% over the corresponding figure for 1948.

The number of girls of all races attending school continued to increase. Classes for women teachers in Kuching in needlework and handwork were organised by the Lady Education Officer; preparations were made for opening, in January, 1950, classes in Domestic Science for girls of all schools in Kuching and plans were being made for the training of women teachers.

In a small number of schools a beginning has been made with the teaching of science.

Finance.

The following figures indicate the increasing expenditure from official funds on educational services :—

	1940	1947	1948	1949
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Central Government funds ...	166,881	235,163	276,436	331,364
Local Authority funds ...	nil	nil	19,943	44,041
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes ...	nil	nil	182,148	164,495
 Total ...	166,881	235,163	478,527	539,900
	£19,488	£27,435	£55,828	£62,988

It is estimated that during 1949 the Mission authorities spent approximately \$219,000 (£24,750) and the management of Chinese Schools some \$1,240,000 (£144,666) on educational services. The amounts were mainly derived from school fees and subscriptions and were additional to grants-in-aid from Government or Local Authority funds.

Government Schools.

At the end of 1949 there were 50 Government Schools staffed by 91 teachers and with 3,760 pupils on the roll. The corresponding figures for 1948 were 56 schools with 104 teachers and 4,080 pupils. The decreases are accounted for by the fact that a number of Government Schools and teachers were taken over by Local Authorities during the year.

At most of the Government Schools the local people are now required to provide and maintain the school buildings, furniture and teachers' quarters. The teachers' emoluments and the cost of equipment are met from Government funds. No fees are charged, but the pupils are required to provide their own stationery. School Committees, with advisory powers, were formed during the year at an increased number of schools.

With the exception of one school in Kuching at which some post-primary classes have been established, all these schools cater for the primary course only. The vernacular is the medium of instruction but the teaching of English as a subject, for which there is a great demand, is being introduced as teachers with sufficient ability become available.

At most of these schools the number of pupils remaining in school for more than one or two years continued to be discouragingly low, and the average attendance was still very unsatisfactory.

Local Authority Schools.

At the end of 1949 there were 40 Local Authority Schools with 50 teachers and an enrolment of 1,625 pupils. The corresponding figures at the end of 1948 were 18 schools with 21 teachers and 804 pupils. Nineteen of these Local Authority Schools had been taken over from the Central Government, five from the Mission authorities or the management of Private Schools, and sixteen were new schools established by the Authorities. Ten of these new schools were opened in 1949.

Local Authorities are financed mainly by a refund of the head tax or door tax collected in their area together with a direct grant from central funds based on the amount of the tax so collected. In order to raise additional revenue for education, Local Authorities have in some cases agreed to substitute head tax for door tax or to impose an education cess. Four of the Authorities now charge fees in their schools.

All these schools had to be staffed temporarily with untrained teachers but in November, 1949, ten certificated teachers for Local Authority Schools completed their training at the Batu Lintang Centre and were due to take up teaching under nine different Authorities from the beginning of 1950.

The general organisation and curriculum of these schools are similar to those adopted for Government Schools.

Private Schools.

In areas where no Local Authority had yet been formed the indigenous peoples were encouraged, in the meantime, to open schools under the management of Committees comprising local representatives. These "Village Committee Schools" or "Private Schools" receive financial assistance from Government. There were 38 of them at the end of 1949 with 58 teachers and 1,891 pupils. The corresponding

figures for 1948 were 30 schools with 47 teachers and 1,555 pupils. 24 of the schools catered mainly for Dayaks and 14 for Malays and Melanaus. Grants from Central Government funds amounting to approximately \$3,400 (£407), as compared with \$1,832 (£213) in 1948, were paid during the year to those schools which applied for assistance. A number of Private Schools received professional guidance from the Mission representative in the area.

Mission Schools.

Several new Mission Schools were opened during 1949, chiefly among the Land Dayaks of the First Division, and at the end of the year there were 59 of these schools with 219 teachers and approximately 6,550 pupils. The corresponding figures at the end of 1948 were 56 schools with 196 teachers and 5,743 pupils.

Grants from Government or Local Authorities amounting to \$85,942 (£10,027) were paid to Mission Schools during the year, as compared with some \$74,500 (£8,692) during the previous year. In the case of the urban schools which cater mainly for the Chinese the grant was calculated on a percentage of the salaries of approved staff, and a more favourable formula was adopted for the rural schools catering for the indigenous peoples.

Of the students who completed their training as teachers at the Batu Lintang Centre at the end of 1949, 14 were due to take up teaching at Mission Schools. During the year Government approved a special grant-in-aid to schools employing certificated teachers from Batu Lintang to enable the Missions to pay these men the same salaries and allowances as were paid in the Government service and to make similar provision for a Provident Fund or Savings Account.

In the urban schools English is the medium of instruction, and these schools provide a large proportion of the entrants to the Government service. At seven of these schools post-primary classes were provided in which 239 pupils were enrolled. This figure compares with 185 pupils in 1948 and 130 in 1947. The higher standards in the primary sections of these schools are well attended and it is expected that the numbers in the secondary classes will increase steadily. The staffs of these schools were strengthened during 1949 by a considerable increase in the numbers of qualified European teachers. 66 candidates entered for the Cambridge Junior

Certificate Examination at the end of 1949. 29 candidates were successful in this examination held in 1948. In the rural schools the vernacular is the medium of instruction, English being taught as a subject.

Chinese Schools.

Several new Chinese Schools were registered during 1949 bringing the total number of these schools to 209, with 21,800 pupils and 730 teachers. In the previous year there were 204 schools with 21,282 pupils and 679 teachers. The number of Chinese pupils enrolled in all types of school in Sarawak now amounts to 17.6 per cent of the total Chinese population of the country.

Most Chinese Schools are controlled by Committees elected annually by the local community. Funds are provided by school fees from pupils and by donations and subscriptions from associations and individuals. During the year "block" grants amounting to approximately \$42,000 (£4,900) as compared with \$30,189 (£3,522) in 1948 were paid from Central Government funds in respect of recurrent expenditure at some 77 Aided Chinese Schools with a total enrolment of some 14,000 pupils.

There were 2 "Junior Middle" Schools and 9 other schools had combined Primary and Middle Departments. A development of importance during the year was the establishment of a "Senior Middle" course at the American Methodist Chinese School at Sibu. The curriculum at Chinese Schools is in general based on that followed by schools in China. The Chinese "National Language", Kuo-Yu, is the language of instruction but increased attention is being given to the teaching of English as a subject.

Higher Education.

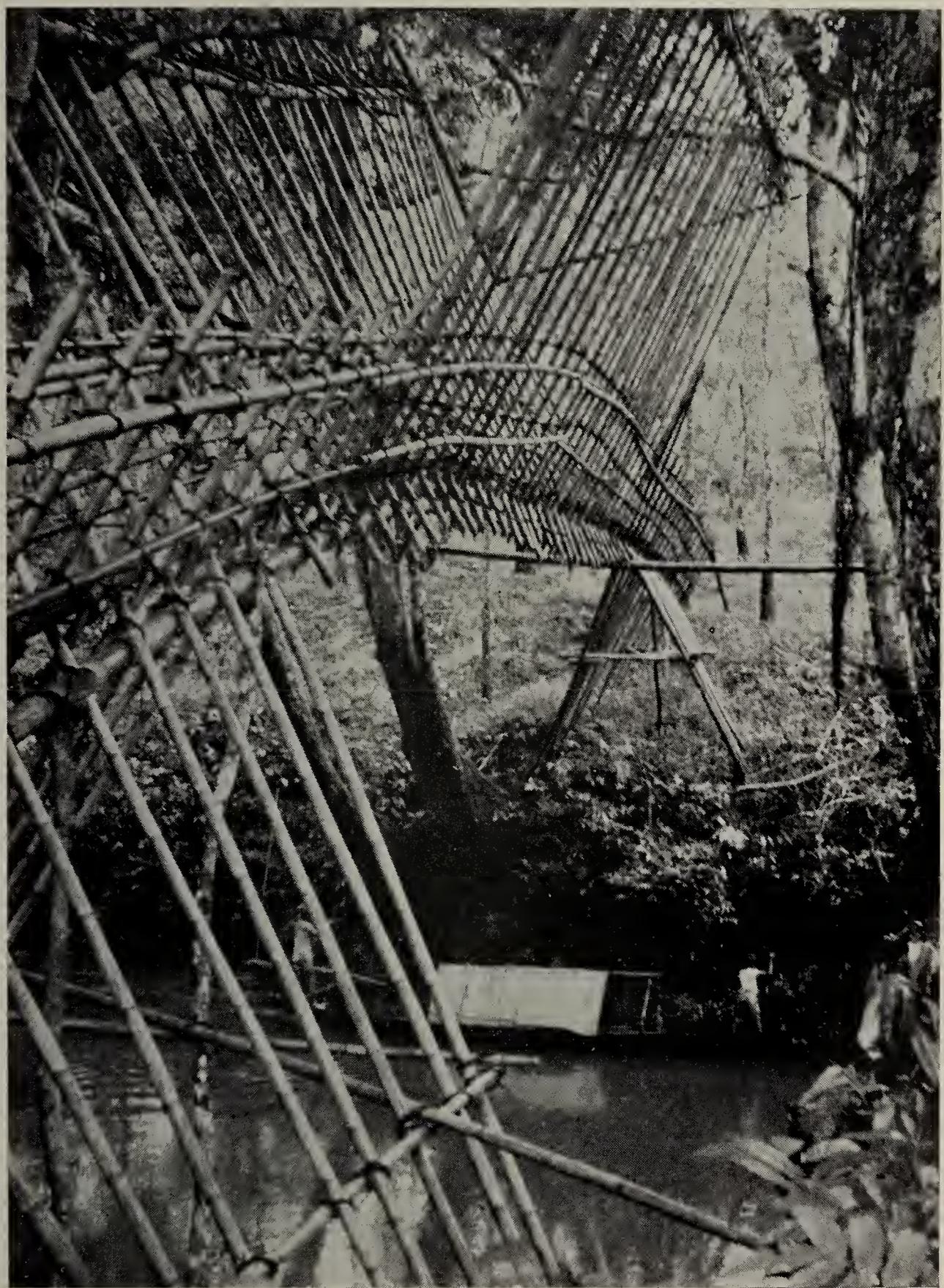
The joint School Certificate class which was established in 1948 with the co-operation of Government and Mission staff continued to function in 1949. Of the 16 students in this class in 1948, 13 were successful in obtaining certificates, and in 1949 the 8 pupils in the class were all successful, three obtaining Grade I certificates. The London Chamber of Commerce Examinations were conducted and a number of candidates passed various grades in clerical and commercial subjects during the year.

The number of Scholarships available still exceeds the number of applicants holding the minimum qualifications for admission to Colleges and Universities. In February, 1949, a Colonial Development and Welfare Scholarship was awarded to a Sarawak student for a 4-year degree course in Science at a British university. A committee was appointed by Government early in 1949 with the object of advising on the allocation of scholarships for different courses of training and of examining applications and recommending candidates for awards under the various schemes. On the recommendation of this committee one student was awarded a scholarship to enable him to take a degree course in Arts at the University of Malaya, and another student received a scholarship for a Civil Engineering course at the Technical College, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya. The Commonwealth of Australia awarded a Fellowship to a Sarawak student for a course in Surveying. Since the Liberation 15 students have completed courses at Colleges in Malaya or Singapore, in Agriculture, Forestry, Dentistry and Surveying. In addition to these students, and to those awarded scholarships during 1949, three Medical Students, one Dental Student, one Agricultural Student and one Surveying Student were taking courses in Singapore or Malaya, one local Nurse was in training in the United Kingdom under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scholarship, and one student, under a scholarship awarded by the British Council, was studying Municipal Administration in England.

Adult Education.

“Night Classes” at a number of Chinese Schools and at a few Government and Mission Schools continued to be well supported, and a few new “Night Schools” were registered during 1949. These courses generally aim at enabling adults to become literate in their own language, to learn simple arithmetic and, in a few instances, to study English. In Kuching classes were conducted by the Education Department to assist entrants to Government Service whose standard of education is below the minimum standard required for permanent appointment. During the year a further 65 students reached the requisite standard.

The demand for vernacular literacy among adults was particularly strong among the Sea Dayaks in the Second Division, especially among those in the area of the River Paku where a promising start has been made with Co-operative Societies. It was therefore decided that a pilot



Bamboo foot bridge built by Dayaks of Buan Bidi,
near Bau.

Photograph by A. J. N. Richards.

The Slow Loris.



scheme in Adult Literacy should be tried in the Paku River area and preparations have been made to begin this after the harvest in the spring of 1950. Concurrently with this project has gone a scheme for the production of literature in the Sea Dayak language. As a beginning an illustrated monthly periodical is to be produced and the first number was due to appear in January, 1950.

Youth Work and Out-of-School Activities.

There were several Associations, Clubs and Societies, some conducted by old students of schools, whose objects were to foster social, educational and cultural activities. Others provided facilities for games.

The Boy Scouts movement continued to develop. Expansion of the Sea Scouts section was encouraged as this is considered particularly suitable for the riverain country of Sarawak. Coastal voyages were made by the Sea Scouts of the Teacher-training Centre who will, it is hoped, spread the movement throughout the Colony when they are posted, on completion of their course, for duty at schools throughout the country. In the autumn of 1949 a Dayak Sea Scout was sent to England, thanks to a grant made by Imperial Headquarters, and took the Wood Badge course at Gilwell. The two Girl Guide companies in the Mission "English" Schools in Kuching had a successful year and a third company was started at the end of 1949 at a Government Malay School.

The Kuching Boys' Home for Juvenile Delinquents, for which the Education Department assumed responsibility in 1948, made satisfactory progress during 1949. Better accommodation was provided by the reconstruction and conversion of the former Government Dairy Farm buildings, and houses were constructed for the Warden and Assistant Warden.

Development Schemes.

Batu Lintang Scheme.

A Government Teacher-training Centre and Secondary School financed from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds was opened in 1948 at Batu Lintang near Kuching. The staff consists of a Principal, an Assistant Principal who is a Roman Catholic priest with academic and professional qualifications, and an assistant staff of local teachers of various races. Efforts to recruit an Anglican clergyman as a second Assistant Principal had unfortunately not been successful by

the end of the year. This practical co-operation of Government and Missions in training at one institution teachers for all types of school was a most important aspect of the scheme. Another vital feature was the gathering together of students of all races, religions and creeds in order to develop mutual understanding and to foster a corporate spirit.

All student-teachers receive free board, tuition and transport, and a system of personal and family allowances ensures that any promising student can benefit from the scheme, irrespective of the financial status of his family.

Because of the urgent need to provide teachers for a rapidly increasing number of schools it was decided to limit the duration of the course, in the first instance, to two years. A few of the students from the most backward races will probably have to remain at the Centre for a longer period. The course was designed to improve the academic standard of all students, including the study of English, and to give them a practical knowledge of teaching principles and methods. Considerable emphasis was also laid on the need to maintain and develop traditional skills and indigenous cultures. Religious instruction was arranged for both Christian and Muslim students, and chapels for different sects were provided in portions of the huts.

During 1949 there were 115 student-teachers at Batu Lintang of whom approximately 65 were in their first year, and the remainder in their second year of training. This number was composed of representatives of 12 different races of Sarawak and included 10 students from the neighbouring State of Brunei. At the end of the year 40 students completed their training and were posted to Government, Local Authority, Private and Mission Schools throughout the country.

A beginning was made in 1949 with the post-primary academic courses at Batu Lintang by the admission of 27 pupils including 7 from Brunei, who had completed the primary courses in the vernacular in rural schools. An entrance examination was held in June on the results of which a further 17 pupils were to be admitted in 1950.

Rural Improvement School, Kanowit.

This school, which is financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, was opened in 1948.

It was designed to meet the special needs of the large Iban-speaking population living in the interior of the country. In order to improve the living conditions of these peoples it was not sufficient merely to provide schools for the children. It was essential that the adults, both women and men, should be helped simultaneously to gain a sound practical knowledge of improved methods of agriculture, animal husbandry, elementary hygiene and infant welfare, to become literate in their own vernacular, and to learn simple "market" arithmetic and elementary civics.

At the end of 1949 twenty-six married couples with their children, drawn from various parts of the Colony, were in residence at the School. During the two-year course these couples receive free tuition, board and transport and a monthly cash allowance for essential requirements. The Principal was formerly Agricultural Education Officer and is well acquainted with the people and their language and customs. He is assisted by some local people as junior staff and by some visiting craft instructors.

The main building of the school consists of a spacious "community centre", of an improved "longhouse" design. This building provides for classrooms, dining and recreational facilities, a dispensary and accommodation for the assistant staff and some of the pupils and their families. During 1949 six individual houses, of different designs, were built on model small-holdings within the school estate. These provided the pupils with the opportunity of living during the course in both the "improved longhouse" and "individual home", so that through practical experience they could begin to form opinions as to which system would be the more suitable for adoption in their home areas.

The school occupies a site of some 200 acres, one quarter of which is reserved as forest. The remainder, which is sufficiently diversified to provide examples of typical farm land throughout the Colony, is used to demonstrate improved techniques of tropical agricultural operations. During 1949 good progress was made with drainage and irrigation, stock-fencing and housing, and with reafforestation.

The first season's crop of padi yielded a better harvest than had been estimated. Some light tractors were lent by the Department of Agriculture and several acres of rough land were cleared. A padi silo to hold 20 tons of padi was built and proved successful.

During the year a Co-operative Stores Society of staff and pupils began business.

The first course is due to end in April, 1950, and in the following month a new intake of approximately 30 couples will be admitted. Plans are being made to secure the smooth return to ordinary life of the couples who have completed their training and to ensure that they have the opportunity to put into practice what they have learnt during their training.

This scheme provides a most interesting experiment in Adult Education of a lengthy and comprehensive type. The course is well designed to fulfil the aims of the training and considerable progress has been made since its inception, but it remains to be seen how successful the pupils will be, when they return to their homes, in spreading the new ideas amongst their neighbours who have not received any such instruction.

Health.

ADMINISTRATION.

Staff.

The senior staff of the Medical and Health Department was considerably below the approved establishment at the beginning of the year, and this deficiency was increased by the departure of the lady medical officer on retirement and the loss of another officer through sickness. These two vacancies were, however, filled before the end of the year. A dental officer and sanitary superintendent arrived during 1949 and the approved establishment of senior nursing personnel was filled by the recruitment of a sister tutor, health visitor and two nursing sisters.

The shortage of local personnel, nurses and hospital assistants, has caused concern throughout the year. The effect of the shortage of nurses has been felt in the maternal and child welfare services, for it has been necessary to recruit midwives for this work as a temporary expedient, since experienced nurses could not be released for training as health visitors.

Throughout the year five midwives have been continuously in training in the General Hospital, Kuching, and in the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic. Four completed their training and received certificates.

There was little formal teaching of health inspectors during the year, though two men attended the course in Singapore for the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and were successful in the examination. With the arrival of the sanitary superintendent, however, a start was made with teaching and the aim will be to develop a syllabus of training which will satisfy the Royal Sanitary Institute and enable examinations for the Certificate to be held in Kuching.

On the arrival of the health visitor in March, a small start was made in the training of local personnel in this work. Though it was intended to base training on the United Kingdom system, allocating suitable nurses who had completed general and midwifery training and giving them a year's special training in public health work, it was found possible to spare only one senior staff nurse and was therefore decided that, at least in the first instance, less highly trained personnel would have to be used.

Legislation.

No major public health legislation was enacted during the year. Minor provision was made for the control of certain antibiotics and for extending the range of notifiable infectious diseases.

New Buildings.

At the General Hospital, Kuching, a tuberculosis ward for women was erected and a second wing was added to the nurses home, which can now accommodate fifty-two nurses. Internal alterations were undertaken and additional staff quarters built, and, at the expense of the Kuching Rotary Club, an extension to the children's ward was erected as a playroom. At Sibu a maternity ward was built, providing sixteen beds and a labour room, the cost being defrayed from a gift of \$23,000 made to Government for this purpose from the Sibu Annual Regatta Fund. New dispensaries were built at four stations, three of them being in replacement of inadequate existing structures and to provide rest bed accommodation. Two of these buildings were part of the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme for the provision of new dispensaries. Under the same scheme eighteen quarters for hospital assistants were erected at the stations upon which the travelling dispensaries would be based.

Finance.

The expenditure on medical and health services during the year was \$1,161,750 as compared with \$989,531 in 1948.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Sewage Disposal.

There are no major schemes for the water-borne disposal of sewage. In the residential areas of Kuching, Sibu and Miri a few premises have septic tank installations, but general nightsoil disposal is by the double-bucket system. There is no doubt that this will have to continue for many years, but every encouragement will be given to the installation of septic tanks in new buildings where practicable. In the villages and less congested areas, river or pit latrines are the rule.

Nightsoil disposal in Kuching is undertaken by the Municipality and the nightsoil is treated in a series of three septic tanks before discharge into the river below the town. In Sibu and Miri the work is carried out by contractors and crude sewage is discharged into the rivers when the tide is ebbing.

Scavenging.

In Kuching collection and disposal of refuse is efficiently carried out by the Municipality, disposal being by controlled tipping in various areas where it is desired to reclaim land. In Sibu the organisation has been greatly improved with the provision of mechanical transport and now operates as in Kuching. Elsewhere refuse removal services are in operation with varying degrees of effectiveness and there was a general improvement during the year.

Water Supplies.

The main towns and several small townships have piped supplies collected from controlled catchment areas, but no treatment is undertaken except at Sibu. Here the supply is drawn from the heavily-polluted Rejang River and is treated by storage and chlorination. Elsewhere rivers, wells and rain water storage meet the requirements of the population, but these sources are subject to contamination and are therefore a threat to the public health.

Food.

Food premises in towns operate under licence and are subject to inspection by public health staff when available. Though there has been a slight improvement in conditions, methods of manufacture, storage and preparation for sale remain in many cases primitive. Food hawkers present a major problem; their handling methods are crude and their numbers make control almost impossible; typhoid endemicity and the incidence of intestinal infections therefore remain considerable. The standard of the markets in the towns was reasonably good, as they were subject to departmental inspection and municipal control.

Housing.

Housing shortage continues and overcrowding remains serious in the towns, especially in the bazaar areas. Much of this, however, would continue even if accommodation were unlimited, for the Chinese, occupying the bazaar "shop-houses", make use of every available foot of floor space for themselves, their families, labourers, hawkers and others, who prefer to live close to their places of employment. Over-crowding in premises often deficient in ventilation and light undoubtedly contributes materially to the spread of tuberculosis, one of the Colony's major and growing problems. An attempt has been made to encourage a new design, especially in towns where rebuilding of bazaars, destroyed by the operations of war, has been undertaken, but the conservatism of the Chinese trader and the urgency of rehabilitating trade have militated against it.

In the Malay villages the standard of housing, though not high, is considerably better than in the bazaars. Design and materials, although primitive, lend themselves to better lighting and ventilation and healthier living. This applies especially to the Malay type of house which is raised some eight to ten feet above the ground.

Further inland, among the Kayans and the Dayaks, can be found the typical communal longhouses of the interior peoples, which are in effect rows of from 10 to 60 houses all under one roof. A longhouse consists of a row of rooms and a long wide enclosed verandah where all communal activities are undertaken and where the bachelors live. It is raised above the ground, sometimes twenty feet or more, and is of

massive construction. The longhouses are usually very ill lit and the people live in semi-darkness. Sanitation is very primitive, all refuse and nightsoil going through the floor to be disposed of by the pigs and poultry on the ground below. Several hundred people living under one roof in such circumstances would appear vulnerable to epidemic infection and records suggest that this is the case. Exact information regarding tuberculosis incidence is lacking, but it is probably considerable.

In Kuching town there has been an increase in new building to the extent of nearly 75% more than in 1948, but it is doubtful if this increase has kept pace with the expansion in population. The report submitted by a Chinese sociologist in March, 1949, shows that the overcrowding mentioned above is prevalent in Kuching. An analysis of the present housing situation shows that alleviation of the present conditions, particularly in the bazaar area, can be achieved only by a doubling of the building area. Consideration of this matter is clearly of immediate importance, but its final solution will be the outcome only of a long term building programme.

ENDEMIC AND OTHER DISEASES.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

The first case in Sarawak's recorded history was diagnosed in March, 1949, and came from a rural area in the interior fifteen miles from Kuching. The disease spread to the Second and Third Divisions and later sporadic cases occurred in Miri and Limbang. Towards the end of the year the incidence had declined markedly except in Sibu and its environs, though even in that area there was a decided slackening as the year closed.

Malaria.

There was no unusual incidence during 1949. All available information indicates that rural areas exhibited their customary endemicity, while towns and trading centres were largely free. The total number of cases diagnosed at hospitals and dispensaries as malaria was 10,389, as against 13,176 in 1948. As in previous years the majority of these cases were diagnosed without microscopical aid.

General anti-mosquito measures in the towns continued as in the previous year. There is, however, no sound basis as yet upon which to organise such measures, for little is yet known about malaria in Sarawak; few spleen or parasite

surveys have been undertaken and the main vectors are not all known with certainty. With the exception, therefore, of the organisation in Miri, which resulted from the sharp epidemic in the 1946-1947 season, no large-scale specific measures were initiated or carried out. Investigation, as far as slender staff resources permitted, was pursued, near Kuching, in the Lower Rejang and in Miri. In the latter place, for the first time in Borneo, salivary gland infected *A. sundiacus* was recorded, an observation of great practical significance, which adds strong support to the expressed opinions of various observers that this mosquito was responsible for the coastal epidemics of malaria.

No investigation was carried out in Sarawak by the Borneo Malaria Research Unit, financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, whose activities were limited to the Colony of North Borneo. An application was therefore made for an extension of the scheme for two years to permit the Unit to work in Sarawak, to provide the information necessary for rational control and to train the nucleus of a local organisation to continue research and control with local funds after the termination of the scheme.

Tuberculosis.

1,108 cases were reported and 280 deaths attributed to this cause, as against 1,096 cases and 370 deaths in 1948. The great majority of the cases were of the pulmonary type. The number of cases discovered on medical examination of applicants for employment in the Government service suggests strongly that a systematic survey would reveal a considerably higher incidence.

Bed accommodation for the isolation and care of the tuberculous still falls far short of what is necessary. In Kuching General Hospital the number of beds has been increased during the year by the erection of a ward containing twenty beds for female cases, bringing the total number of tuberculosis beds to fifty. Sibu Hospital has no special beds; a voluntary organisation provides care for a number of cases of chronic tuberculosis, but active treatment is not undertaken. During 1950 it is planned to provide Sibu with X-ray facilities and to build a special tuberculosis ward of twenty beds.

Leprosy.

There is no reason to suspect any change in incidence. 59 cases were diagnosed and admitted to the Leper Settlement as against 67 in 1948. The Settlement population was 418 at the end of the year, compared with 382 at the end of 1948.

Yaws.

This remains one of the commonest and most widespread diseases, and 15,370 cases were diagnosed and treated during the year as against 18,730 in 1948. Regular treatment is difficult when the population is so dispersed, but there are signs that the regular visits of the travelling dispensaries are encouraging infected persons to continue treatment.

Diphtheria.

There was a marked reduction in incidence, only 82 cases being reported as compared with 249 in 1948. The vast majority of the cases were from Kuching and Sibu.

The Enteric Fevers.

The decline in incidence seen in 1948 continued during the year, when 107 cases were diagnosed as against 153 in the previous year. As formerly Sibu was the main centre of incidence, but here too there was a substantial reduction.

Dysentery and Diarrhoea.

The number of persons seeking treatment at outstation dispensaries continues to be high. There were no major outbreaks of dysentery during the year, though primitive living conditions outside the towns make the occurrence of epidemic likely.

Helminthiasis.

A very large proportion of the population constantly harbour intestinal worms, especially ascaris. Ankylostomiasis is also common, being associated with defective sanitation and the use of nightsoil as fertiliser in agriculture.

Venereal Diseases.

Outside the towns the incidence is relatively low, and it is not unduly high even in the towns. During the year 839 cases of gonorrhoea and 1,883 cases of syphilis were diagnosed at Government hospitals and dispensaries.

Non-endemic Diseases.

Sarawak has been free for many years from smallpox, plague, cholera and typhus. There is no record that epidemic typhus has ever occurred, but it is possible that endemic typhus is present, although no case has yet been diagnosed with certainty. A considerable amount of vaccination against smallpox has been undertaken since the war, but the major portion of the population is still non-immune.

Malnutrition and Deficiency Diseases.

Though gross nutritional deficiency is seldom encountered, a very considerable proportion of the population, both rural and urban, shows signs of undernourishment. No measure is available of the degree of malnutrition in rural areas, but the records of the Maternity and Child Welfare service in Kuching indicate that 22% of some 1,200 babies, attending during nine months of 1949, showed undernourishment in varying degree, and malnutrition among women and nursing mothers was not uncommon. Arrangements were made during the year to supply hospitals with vitamin-enriched rice to mix with the ordinary rice supplies, and milk and fat supplements were provided at the clinics to mothers and babies whose need was great. Shortage of staff still precludes the carrying out of nutritional surveys, and no feeding schemes were undertaken.

HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

By the end of the year Government was operating three hospitals, twenty-five outstation dispensaries and three travelling dispensaries, two of which were river craft and one a road vehicle. Most outstation dispensaries have from six to twelve rest beds and in-patient treatment of a simple nature can be provided. Sarawak Oilfields Limited at Miri operates its own hospital of 124 beds for its employees; by arrangement with the Company, its medical facilities are available to the public on repayment by Government, which as far as possible recovers costs from the patients concerned. A similar arrangement with the Government of Brunei enables the peoples of the Fifth Division to receive treatment in the Brunei Hospital. Out-patient attendances have reached a total fifty per cent higher than in 1948 and there has been a ten per cent increase in the number of in-patients.

General Hospital, Kuching.

This is the largest and most elaborate medical institution in the Colony and it finished the year with 300 general and

special beds and 100 mental beds. It is the training centre for hospital assistants, nurses and midwives and, in spite of shortage of senior staff, the volume of work undertaken was larger than in previous years and there was a steady raising of hospital standards.

The vast majority of the patients treated are Chinese, who accounted for 65.85% of the 5,207 admissions; Dayaks and Malays provide 18% and 10% of the admissions.

A new X-ray diagnostic plant arrived in the latter part of the year. The laboratory was greatly improved; manufacture of vaccines was begun and sufficient anti-typhoid and anti-cholera vaccine was prepared to meet the needs of the Colony.

The mental section remains unsatisfactory, with serious overcrowding. During the year agreement in principle was reached with the North Borneo and Brunei Governments on the establishment of a joint mental hospital.

Central Dispensary, Kuching.

This is the out-patient department of the General Hospital, situated in the centre of the town, and consists of separate male and female sections. The accommodation is at present shared with the headquarters of the Maternity and Child Welfare organisation, and is inadequate and not entirely suitable. Daily attendances averaged 600 during the year, though there was some falling off in the latter part, when the charging of nominal fees was instituted.

Dental Clinic, Kuching.

This is located in the General Hospital and consists of two adequately-equipped dental surgeries and a laboratory. The staff at the end of the year consisted of a dental officer, a local dentist trained in the U.S.A. and a dental mechanic trained in Singapore, and it was possible, for the first time since the war, to provide limited, but efficient, dental service to the vulnerable population groups in Kuching and to employees of Government and others who desired skilled attention. Surveys of school children were also begun.

Although there are some 160 registered dentists practising in the Colony, none but the Government staff hold any dental degrees or diplomas. Though the general standard of the majority is poor by western standards, they do fulfil a public need and will, for many years to come, provide the only dental care available outside the main towns.

Lau King Howe Hospital, Sibu.

The erection during the year of a 16-bedded maternity ward with labour room brought into operation a total of 84 general and special beds by the end of the year. With two medical officers available throughout the year, there was a marked improvement in general standards and a large increase in the amount of work done. Though staff is not yet entirely adequate, this hospital was relatively better off than the General Hospital, Kuching. At the end of the year a nursing sister was posted to the hospital for the first time.

In-patients numbered 2,550 and out-patients 29,832, as against 1,785 and 30,907 in 1948.

During 1950 the X-ray apparatus formerly used in the General Hospital, Kuching, will be moved to Sibu, and an extension of the hospital, including a tuberculosis ward, a mental block, a new out-patient department and nurses' home, is planned.

Simanggang Hospital.

This was formerly the largest of the outstation dispensaries, and its conversion into a small hospital began with the posting, for the first time, of a medical officer to Simanggang in December. Additional staff and much equipment were provided and twenty beds were in use by the end of the year. New construction, to provide for stores, laboratory and out-patient department, is planned for 1950, and it is hoped by 1951 to develop the institution into a 40 or 50-bed hospital.

Outstation Dispensaries.

There was an increase of one during the year, bringing the total to twenty-five. The provisional figure for attendances was 137,485, and 1,361 patients were admitted to rest beds. Three dispensaries were replaced by new buildings providing better accommodation. Good work was done but, through shortage of staff, supervision was slight. In general the work done by the hospital assistants, often under difficult circumstances, was admirable.

Travelling Dispensaries (Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme No. D.830).

The first two dispensaries, operating by river boat, which were planned to work during the first two years of training and preparation for the full scheme, to provide information

and experience in operating this new type of dispensary, performed their function well and gave good service to large numbers of people living in the deltas of the Sarawak and Rejang Rivers. Schedules covering five days a week were maintained with remarkable regularity, though both boats had to undergo major overhauls owing to damage done to the hulls by borer beetles, and the engines of the Sibu boat were out of action for a time. These troubles have, however, proved instructive, and it is clear that the closest supervision and much hard work will be required in future to maintain the scattered fleet of travelling dispensaries on the remote rivers of the Colony.

Experience has shown that the scheme is a practicable one and immensely popular with the people. Apart from providing curative treatment, the boats serve as river ambulances bringing to the hospitals those who require more elaborate treatment; for various reasons, connected with the habits and customs of the people, this function is slow in developing. The travelling dispensaries also provided valuable medical intelligence throughout the year, locating cases of poliomyelitis along their routes during the sharp outbreak in the second half of the year.

Leper Settlement.

This institution is situated thirteen miles from Kuching and is accessible by motor road. At the end of the year there were 418 inmates, as compared with 382 at the end of 1948, living in conditions not very dissimilar from those of normal village communities. Preliminary observations on the results of sulphetrone therapy are encouraging and there has been undoubted and obvious clinical improvement in many cases.

A pleasing feature of the year was the development of social welfare activities. The settlement school became solidly established, a boy scout troop was formed; the local branch of the British Red Cross Society organised a working group in the settlement and, by weekly visits, did much to encourage community effort; the Rotary Club too did good work, especially in organising and financing periodic cinema shows. Most important of all perhaps was the formation of a Settlement Advisory Committee to represent to the Superintendent the views and wishes of the inmates and to assist him in the administration of the settlement.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The organisation has had insufficient space available in its headquarters, which have been shared with the Central Dispensary. The arrival of the health visitor in March increased attendances and, despite accommodation difficulties, progress has been rapid. Ante-natal and child welfare work have been firmly established and, though the vast majority of those attending have been Chinese, there have latterly been signs of growing appreciation of the value of the clinics by other communities. A subsidiary centre was opened in a school in the heart of the Malay *kampongs* and it is now running smoothly with a good attendance. Clinics were held each week, ante-natal sessions alternating with child welfare. The child welfare clinics were very popular, though they tended to be regarded as places to which to bring sick children. Post-natal clinics have had to be incorporated in the child welfare clinics, and still the majority of the women attending do so because of definite complaints.

The ordinary work of the clinic left the staff little time for health education by means of talks and demonstrations. Some lecturing was, however, done and for a time weekly sessions were held at which health educational films were shown and enlarged upon by the health visitor.

Home visiting, an activity entirely new in this country, was initiated by the health visitor and her staff in March, and visits were on the whole well received. In Malay and many Chinese homes neither mother nor infant are permitted to leave the house in which the confinement took place for a period of forty days; during this period many difficulties to both are likely to arise and home visiting is then especially important.

Towards the end of the year it was decided to extend the work to a rural area fifteen miles from Kuching. Suitable premises were rented in a small rural bazaar serving a fairly well populated Land Dayak area, and preparations were well advanced to open a welfare centre there at the beginning of 1950.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

This is based upon the Quarantine Rules, 1932, which are not in accord with recent international conventions. It has not yet been possible to enact new rules, but in practice

the spirit of the International Sanitary Convention was followed as far as possible. Kuching, Sarikei and Miri are first ports of call for vessels from overseas. Health inspectors are stationed there and formalities are conducted by them. No infected vessels entered the Colony's ports during the year.

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH.

British Red Cross Society—Sarawak Branch.

The Branch was very active during the year, its largest single venture being the establishment of an ambulance service which was closely co-ordinated with that of the Medical Department. The ambulance, costing \$10,000, was a gift to the Branch from the Society and it began to operate in August, running weekly to Serian in conjunction with the Department's travelling (road) dispensary. During the period of its operation it has transported 53 convalescent patients to their homes and brought 87 sick persons to the General Hospital.

The Branch's blood transfusion service has been of the greatest help to the General Hospital. A Red Cross First Aid Post, established and conducted by the Branch at the 24th mile from Kuching, has provided good service. In the General Hospital and Leper Settlement a great deal of welfare work has been done and sewing and occupational handicrafts taught. The Society has also presented a very useful library of text books and reference books to the Nurses' Training School.

Sibu Benevolent Society.

This organisation continued to do most useful work in caring for destitute aged and also chronic tuberculosis cases in their Home near Sibu and their Nursing Home in Sibu. The Department undertook medical supervision of the latter, which accommodates some fifty chronic invalids. The Society is supported by public subscription and a monthly contribution from Government.

Missions.

There are still no medical missions in the Colony, but simple out-patient treatment continued to be provided at several mission stations and, at two, in-patients were cared for by nuns who are also qualified nurses.

Social Welfare.

Though Sarawak has no Social Welfare Department as such, the Government does in fact perform a considerable amount of social welfare work. Government charity votes are operated throughout the Colony by Administrative Officers for the relief of the needy. The Secretary for Chinese Affairs, in addition to his other duties, acts as Protector of Women and Girls, and administers a repatriation vote. His activities are not confined to the Chinese community, but extend to all non-indigenous communities. Charitable relief to needy Mohammedans is provided from a trust fund to which the Government contributes. The Government has also for many years maintained a Pauper Settlement, now known as the Home for the Aged.

A Social Welfare Advisory Committee was formed in 1948 and has done good work in advising Government on social welfare policy and practice. During the past year a Social Welfare Council has also been established, which includes representatives of all the various organisations which are interested in this kind of work, as well as of the general public. The executive side of its work is assisted by a local-born probation officer, who returned during 1949 from Singapore, where he had completed a year's intensive training in social work, both theoretical and practical.

Most of the tribes in the interior of Sarawak lead a community life. The longhouse system ensures that the individual incapacitated by illness or accident cannot be ignored or abandoned, and there is, in consequence, little or no destitution among these people. They rarely fail to provide foster-parents for orphans and succour for the needy in their midst. This does not mean that their standard of living is anything but low, and relief has frequently to be supplied by the Government on the failure of the padi harvest.

There is a certain amount of destitution among the Chinese. The various Chinese communities have their own associations, which themselves, or with the help of Government, effect some relief within their own communities. Aged destitute males are taken into the Home for the Aged near Kuching. In Sibu, thanks to the efforts of a committee consisting of members of all communities, a Benevolent Society has been established to which reference has been made above. This Society, aided by a grant from Government and with

considerable assistance from the Roman Catholic Mission in respect of nursing staff and supervision, runs its own nursing home for the indigent and is doing excellent work. The Mission Churches and Convents care for orphans on a limited scale and run small hospitals and nurseries in certain outstations. The Missions are active in improving social conditions generally, while clubs, societies and youth organisations, such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, exercise a healthy influence beyond their own circles.

Juvenile delinquency exists in the principal towns, and a start has been made to tackle the problem in Kuching. The Boys' Home, opened in 1948 and now under the direction of the Education Department, continues its good work of turning budding criminals into useful citizens. The boys are in no way confined.

In August a Boys' Club and Hostel was opened in a poor quarter of Kuching. The Club, on the lower floor of the building, is open from noon till 8.15 p.m., and provides a radio set, ping-pong tables and newspapers; outside these periods football is organised for the boys on a nearby recreation ground. The Hostel on the upper floor can accommodate up to twelve boys and is intended to provide a temporary home for homeless youths between the ages of 14 and 20. The Warden and Board of Management help boys to find employment.

The excellent work done by the Sarawak Branch of the British Red Cross Society has been referred to above. The Kuching Rotary Club has also continued throughout the year its useful voluntary social services, paying regular visits to the Boys' Home, Leper Settlement, Jail and Home for the Aged, assisting discharged prisoners through its Prisoners' Aid Committee, and supplying sports equipment for the Boys' Home.

Masked Kayan dancing, while another plays the *sapeh*, Balui River.

Photograph by Heda Morrison.



Fort Vyner, Belaga.



CHAPTER 8.

Legislation.

During the year steady progress in the reform of legislation has continued. At the two meetings of Council Negri, thirty-three Ordinances were enacted of which only ten dealt with new subjects while twenty-one amended or repealed and replaced existing laws.

A further step was taken in the revision of the laws by the publication at the beginning of 1949, under the authority of the Revised Edition of the Laws (Additional Volumes) Ordinance, 1948, of a fourth volume of the Revised Edition containing, *inter alia*, the subsidiary legislation in force on 1st February, 1949, and made under Chapters 1 to 26 of the Ordinances of the Colony.

The more important Ordinances enacted were—

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance which makes provision for the payment of compensation by employers to workmen and their dependants for injuries or death resulting from accidents arising out of and in the course of their employment.

The Motor Vehicles (Third Party Risks) Insurance Ordinance which makes compulsory third party insurance of motor vehicles.

The Rule Committee Ordinance which establishes a Rule Committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Justice, with power to make rules governing civil procedure in the Courts. Prior to the enactment of this Ordinance, apart from a few rules made under the Courts Ordinance, 1947, civil procedure was governed by the practice of the Courts, which varied in different parts of the Colony. During the year the Rule Committee made many rules and thus the task of creating a code of civil procedure has been commenced.

The Natural Resources Ordinance which repealed and replaced the Prevention of Erosion Ordinance (Cap. 34). This Ordinance empowers a Board, established under the Ordinance, and Local Authorities to take measures to protect the natural resources of the Colony.

The Mining Ordinance which repealed and replaced the Mining Ordinance (Cap. 89). The latter Ordinance was out of date and insufficient for the proper development of the mineral resources of the Colony.

The Income Tax Ordinance which makes provision for a tax on the incomes of individual persons and companies. The Ordinance provides for a tax on the incomes of companies with effect from 1st January, 1950, but it is not proposed to bring into force at present the provisions as to a tax on the incomes of individuals.

The Trades Licensing Ordinance which is a corollary to the Income Tax Ordinance and imposes taxation, by way of a small licence fee, on certain trades and businesses. Trades and businesses the profits of which are liable to income tax are exempted from the provisions of the Ordinance.

The Debtor and Creditor (Occupation Period) Ordinance which governs the relationship between debtors and creditors in respect of debts arising prior to or during the Japanese occupation of the Colony.

The National Registration Ordinance which establishes a system for the registration of, and issue of identity cards to, persons resident in or entering the Colony.

The Pensions Ordinance, the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Ordinance and the Government Employees Provident Fund Ordinance which replaced the existing Pensions Legislation. These three Ordinances make provision, on modern lines, for pensions for officers in the service of the Government of the Colony and holding pensionable office and for the widows and orphans of such officers, and establish a provident fund for certain non-pensionable employees in the service of the Government. Officers to whom the old legislation applied are given the option of remaining subject to that legislation. The rights of persons to whom pensions have been granted under the old legislation, and the rights of officers who elect to remain under it, are fully safeguarded.

During the last three years substantial progress has been made, but there are still many legislative reforms required. Now that an Assistant Attorney-General has been appointed and is due to arrive in the Colony early in 1950, it should be possible to increase the rate of progress.

CHAPTER 9.

Justice, Police and Prisons.

JUSTICE.

Apart from Imperial legislation, whether by Order in Council or otherwise, the law of Sarawak is to be found mainly in local Ordinances and native customary law. The many indigenous tribes in the Colony have their own *adat* or customary law, and in some cases native customs have been embodied in Codes. It is said that some of these Codes, especially the Malay Undang-Undang and the Tusun Tunggu (or Code of Iban Customs), are authoritative and equivalent to statute law, but the Supreme Court has not yet been called upon to decide the extent to which that is so.

Chinese customary law, chiefly in matrimonial matters and in relation to inheritance, is recognized to a limited extent, but only in so far as such recognition is expressly or by implication to be found in a local Ordinance. The Chief Justice said in a leading case: “The notion, still held by some Magistrates, that Chinese customary law is part of the law of Sarawak, must be exploded. The Courts cannot extend the field within which Chinese custom is recognized; that is the province of the legislature.”

Where Sarawak law is silent, the Courts apply the common law of England and the doctrines of equity, together with English statutes to the extent permitted by the Application of Laws Ordinance, 1949. But English law is applied so far only as the circumstances of the Colony and of its inhabitants permit and subject to such qualifications as local circumstances and native customs render necessary.

There are two hierarchies of Courts in Sarawak—those constituted under the Courts Ordinance and those constituted under the Native Courts Ordinance.

The Courts constituted under the Courts Ordinance, as modified by the later legislation, are the Supreme Court, the Circuit Courts, and the various Magistrates' Courts. The Chief Justice constitutes the Supreme Court and the work of that Court lies chiefly in the exercise of appellate and revisional jurisdiction and jurisdiction under the Matrimonial

Causes Ordinance. The Circuit Courts are presided over by professional Judges and have unlimited jurisdiction in almost all matters, whether civil or criminal. The Courts presided over by Magistrates are the District Court (civil and criminal), the Court of Small Causes (civil), the Police Court (criminal) and the Petty Court (civil and criminal).

The Supreme Court has its headquarters in Kuching, but sits as occasion may require in Sibu, Miri, Simanggang and Limbang. The two Circuit Courts have their headquarters in Kuching and Sibu respectively.

The Courts constituted under the Native Courts Ordinance are the District Native Court, the Native Officer's or Chief's Court and the Headman's Court. An appeal lies from the District Native Court to the Court of a Magistrate of the First Class sitting with a Native Officer or Chief and two assessors. There is a further appeal to the Supreme Court, in which the Judge sits with the Secretary for Native Affairs (or with a First Class Magistrate other than the Magistrate from whose Court the appeal lay) and with two assessors who must be Native Officers or Chiefs. As a general rule the Native Courts are competent to try only cases in which all the parties are natives, including cases arising from the breach of native law and custom, civil cases where the value of the subject matter does not exceed fifty dollars, and claims to untitled land.

POLICE.

The Sarawak Constabulary was reinforced during the year by the arrival of three gazetted officers to fill vacant posts on the establishment, and at the end of 1949 it consisted of 9 gazetted officers, 20 inspectors, 6 sub-inspectors and 1,021 other ranks. As the approved strength was 10 gazetted officers, 20 inspectors, 7 sub-inspectors and 1,076 other ranks, the force was 57 below establishment.

The racial composition of the Constabulary was:—

Malays	... 42.76%	Sea Dayaks	... 32.90%
Melanaus	... 8.18%	Land Dayaks	... 7.24%
Sikhs	... 3.57%	Chinese	... 1.97%
Javanese and other		Europeans	... 0.85%
Indonesians	... 1.03%	Kayans	... 0.28%
Filipinos	... 0.38%	Indian Muslims	... 0.28%
Kenyahs	... 0.28%	Dusuns	... 0.09%
Muruts	... 0.19%		

Numerically, recruiting was fairly satisfactory and it was necessary on some occasions to hold up the intake of recruits owing to lack of accommodation. From the physical and educational point of view, however, the standard cannot be said to have improved on that of the previous year. Of necessity there are still a large number of men who enter the force completely illiterate, and in the majority of cases their progress is very slow. Figures showing the intake and output of recruits during the year are:—

Recruits under training, 1-1-49	...	134
Recruits enlisted during the year	...	154
Recruits transferred to Sectors during the year	75	
Recruits discharged as unlikely to become efficient	...	48
Recruits under training, 31-12-49	...	165

The training programme was completely overhauled during the year and the standard of training reached by recruits who have passed out since this revision has fully justified the change. More time and care have been devoted to the teaching of law and police duties, and the field training, formerly completely out of date, has been modernised.

Three promotion courses and one refresher course were held, a much higher standard being required for a pass than in previous years. Of the 71 constables who attended these courses, 28 passed and qualified for promotion to lance-corporal. Examinations in higher and lower law and for first and second class certificates were also held and again, owing to a stricter system of marking, successes were fewer than in previous years:—

<i>Examination</i>	<i>Number of candidates</i>	<i>Passed</i>
Higher Law in English	...	3
Lower Law in English	...	8
Lower Law in Romanized	...	190
First Class Certificate	...	356
Second Class Certificate	...	184

In addition, 6 inspectors sat for a Senior Service law examination, and 5 passed.

Offences against discipline numbered 707 as compared with 522 in 1948, the increase being mainly due to the higher standard of discipline demanded now that the force is

approaching full strength. There is still much room for improvement and this can best be obtained by raising the standard of non-commissioned officers, who must be made to realise their responsibilities.

The health of the force has improved considerably during the year, the total number of admissions to hospital being 187 as against 451 in 1948. The total number of man-days spent in hospital was 1,829 as against 2,314 in 1948. Facilities for sports have been handicapped throughout the Colony by the lack of gear and the funds necessary to provide it. Police teams have, however, done well in some local championships.

The Band has been giving regular performances in the Museum gardens, which have been well attended by members of the public. It has also attended all guards of honour mounted, and has played in a number of outstations. At the end of December a European bandmaster arrived.

The Special Branch was formed in June, with the arrival of an officer recruited for the purpose.

The Sarawak Constabulary Co-operative Thrift and Loan Society was started in September, and by the end of the year had a membership of 263 and a capital of \$1,699. The response from the men has been very encouraging.

Approval was given by Government during the year to the establishment of a Special Constabulary of 500 officers and men. Units were recruited at Kuching, Sibu and Miri, where weekly parades were held and elementary drill and police duties were taught, and at the end of the year the total strength was 343.

Crime.

There was a slight decrease in crime, 1,232 seizable cases being reported as against 1,500 during 1948. Total convictions were 496 as against 638. Crimes of violence remained about the same as in the previous year, there being 8 murders, 6 robberies and 52 cases of aggravated assault, as against corresponding figures of 11, 6 and 38 in 1948. The principal offences were those against property, and comparative figures are given below:—

<i>Offence.</i>	<i>Year.</i>	<i>Reports.</i>	<i>Convictions.</i>	<i>Ratio of reports to convictions.</i>
Theft and Theft in dwelling	1940	1,371	231	1 to 5.93
	1946	1,653	252	1 to 6.32
	1947	1,036	258	1 to 4.01
	1948	879	259	1 to 3.39
	1949	750	232	1 to 3.23
House-breaking	1940	48	6	1 to 8
	1946	97	13	1 to 7.46
	1947	82	24	1 to 3.41
	1948	114	25	1 to 4.56
	1949	74	11	1 to 6.72

In only 7 cases, as compared with 20 in 1948, was the property, the subject of theft or theft in a dwelling, of a value exceeding \$500. 322 reports were in connection with property worth \$25 or less.

There was an increase of 828 in reports of non-seizable offences under laws other than the Penal Code. This was due mainly to increased police action under the Municipal and Vehicles Ordinances.

A new scheme for the policing of the Colony was drawn up by the Acting Commissioner and submitted to Government during the year, receiving approval in principle. It is, in brief, to reduce the number of static police stations to about 20 and to give much wider police cover to the country as a whole by constant patrolling.

PENAL ADMINISTRATION.

Prison administration is under the control of a Superintendent of Prisons with headquarters in Kuching. There are four main prisons, situated at Kuching, Simanggang, Sibu and Miri, a female jail at Bau and seventeen small outstation jails, the latter being used only for prisoners serving terms of one month or less.

There has been an improvement in discipline and efficiency, with the return of twelve warders from training courses in Singapore, and the strength of the staff is now up to establishment for the first time for several years.

There has been a decrease in admissions to the jails during the year. Four trade parties have been started, and

these will considerably increase the prison revenues. Brick-making has proved a success, as also have the carpenters', tinsmiths' and mat-making shops. Other trade parties make baskets and reseat chairs, make and repair staff uniforms and prisoners' clothing and do laundry work. There are now very few prisoners engaged in outside work. It is hoped that in 1950 all uniforms required by Government Departments, including the Constabulary, will be manufactured by the tailors' shop in the Kuching jail.

All jails are visited monthly by Visiting Boards, consisting of Magistrates and members of the various communities. The Kuching Rotary Club have formed a voluntary Prisoners' Aid Committee, which deals with the rehabilitation of prisoners discharged from Kuching jail. The Prison authorities also endeavour to assist discharged prisoners in obtaining work.

The majority of the prisoners appear to be happy and contented. In May a system of leaders and trusted prisoners was instituted, a leader earning \$2 a week and a trusted prisoner \$1.50. Out of these payments 50 cents a week goes into compulsory savings, to be returned to the prisoner on discharge, while with the balance he can purchase small extras, such as tobacco, sugar, jam and sauces. This system has proved a great success, and Government has approved the introduction from the beginning of 1950 of an earning scheme for all prisoners serving over one month's imprisonment. Discipline has been good throughout the year. There were 7 escapes, as against 20 in 1948, and 3 men were recaptured. All escapes were from prison gangs working outside or within the jail precincts.

The Kuching jail is still unsatisfactory, as there are no proper facilities for segregation or for recreation. As far as possible, habitual offenders are kept separate from first offenders. New remand and punishment cells, as well as condemned cells and an execution building, have been constructed during the year. Executions were formerly carried out by shooting, but it has been decided that from 1950 they shall be carried out by hanging. Three warders, who volunteered for the duty of assistant executioner, were sent to Singapore during the year for a two months' course.

Part of the ground floor of the Kuching jail has been converted into a prison hospital, equipped with six beds, in

charge of a hospital assistant. It is visited daily by a medical officer.

At the end of the year there were 14 recidivists out of a total of 159 prisoners serving sentences, and there appear to be very few confirmed criminals who are continually in and out of jail.

Great interest has been shown by a number of prisoners in education, and many are learning English and Romanized Malay. The prison library has been augmented and books in Malay, Chinese and English are exchanged quarterly between the various divisional jails. The Sarawak Branch of the British Red Cross Society makes a weekly donation of books and periodicals to the library. Badminton and volley ball are still very popular during the recreational period. Visits have been paid to prisoners in the divisional jails by members of various religious organisations.

Juvenile offenders serve their sentences normally in the Kuching Boys' Home, which is administered by the Education Department.

CHAPTER 10.

Public Utilities and Public Works.

Electricity Supplies.

The Sarawak Electricity Supply Company, Ltd., is responsible for the lighting and power services throughout the Colony. It was formed in 1932 to take over the Government supply stations at Kuching, Sibu and Mukah, and Government holds the majority of the shares, Messrs. United Engineers, Ltd., being the other shareholders and General Managers. The Company's policy has been a progressive one of modernising the existing stations and installing generating plant in the smaller townships.

At the time of the Japanese occupation in 1941 the Company was operating generating stations at Kuching, Sibu, Mukah, Sarikei, Binatang, Simanggang and Bintulu, all powered by diesel plant and supplying lighting at a charge to the consumer of 20 cents per unit. In Kuching the Company also operated an ice factory, retailing ice to the public at 1 cent per lb. On the reoccupation it was found that two generating sets in Kuching had been removed, the Mukah and Bintulu stations were almost destroyed and the remaining plant was in a very bad condition owing to neglect and lack of maintenance.

During 1945-1946 the Company was busily engaged in rehabilitating these stations and maintaining a gradually improving standard of supply to the public. Owing to the tardy delivery of materials and machinery, however, this work has proceeded slowly. During 1948 the restoration of Mukah and Bintulu stations was completed and these are now giving a 12-hours' supply daily. In the same year a new station at Betong began operating. These stations are of 25/50 KW capacity only and are primarily for lighting the townships. On completion, however, of the change from D.C. to A.C. supply at Sibu, additional generating equipment will be available for Binatang, Simanggang and Betong stations.

In December, 1947, a restricted supply service was started in Miri, after negotiations with Sarawak Oilfields, Ltd., and the Government. As the maximum demand is about 84 KW,

while output is only 75 KW, it is necessary to restrict supply nightly, but plans are in hand for improvement. It is proposed in the first instance to extend the existing D.C. supply rather than install expensive new A.C. equipment.

During 1947 a new 140 KW Alternating Current generating set was ordered for the Sibu station. A section of the town was changed over to A.C. supply in June, 1949, but the new set did not arrive until later in the year. Installation was completed in December and it is hoped to complete the change over to all consumers by the middle of 1950.

In Kuching the new 400 KW set, partly erected in 1947, was still awaiting further engine parts at the end of 1949. Increased demand by the public for electricity has put a strain on the pre-war generating sets, and complete overhauls have not been possible owing to the necessity of running them continuously. The position was aggravated by the failure of the supercharger of one of these A.C. sets, which necessitated the imposition of restrictions from February to the end of the year, in order to shed 10% of the load nightly. A new supercharger has now arrived and will be fitted early in January, 1950. The parts for the new 400 KW set are due to arrive early in 1950 and it is expected that additional output will be available in March or April. The maximum demand on the station for the year was 652 KW as against 638 KW in 1948, and the number of units generated was 2,193,892 as against 1,948,217 in 1948.

The present charge for lighting is $27\frac{1}{2}$ cents per unit.

A new plant was installed in the ice factory in Kuching in April. This gives an output of 4 tons a day, making a total output available of 8 tons a day, which meets the public demand.

Dockyard and Engineering Services.

The Brooke Dockyard and Engineering Works, Kuching, is a publicly-owned establishment operated under the control of a Board of Management appointed by the Government.

The dry dock, opened in 1921, is 240 feet in length, 40 feet wide at the entrance, and vessels up to 9 feet draft can be docked at spring tides. The dock entrance is closed by a steel caisson operated by the rise and fall of the tide, pumping machinery being installed to deal with water below low tide level. A 10-ton capacity fixed jib crane, operated by steam, is installed at the dock wharf.

Adjacent to the dry dock is a slipway constructed to accommodate launches up to 40 feet in length and 13 feet beam. There is also a machine shop equipped with a range of machine tools, electric and oxy-acetylene welding apparatus and a small brass melting furnace. This shop is suitable for general mechanical engineering repairs, comprising maintenance to hulls and machinery of local vessels and public and privately-owned plant and equipment.

A staff of 42 permanent employees under a Manager, appointed by the Board, is maintained. This staff has been kept fully employed during the year, and a small favourable balance has been obtained over the year's working. The workshops have been changed over to A.C. electric power; this has made it possible to fit individual electric motor drive to the machines, thus eliminating dangerous and uneconomical lineshafts with belt drives to the machines. During the year 47 vessels were dry-docked and 19 launches used the slipway for repairs.

Water Supplies.

Kuching.

The source of supply is at Matang, a mountain range 3,000 feet high, about ten miles west of Kuching. The catchment area is a waterworks reserve. The quality of the water is excellent and it is not treated in any way. The collection system consists of diversion dams in four mountain streams and one small impounding reservoir. The dams are at a suitable height to give a gravitational supply to Kuching. The mountain range rises abruptly from the coastal plain and investigations over a period of many years have failed to locate a site for a large impounding reservoir at the required contour level. The water is collected and brought to Kuching through $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of open channel and $15\frac{3}{4}$ miles of pipe. The pipe line crosses the Sarawak River on a 700-foot-span suspension bridge, erected for this purpose. During heavy rain the control valves at the diversion dams are closed and the water supply is taken from the impounding reservoir and the service reservoirs in Kuching. The latter consist of one 2-million-gallon pressed steel tank, two concrete service basins and one reinforced concrete water tower.

Approximately 2,500 services are connected to the system and all private services are metered. The charge for water is 45 cents per thousand gallons, with a minimum of \$1 a

month. The smallest size of meter is provided free, and there is a small rent for the larger sizes.

Increase in population since the war and the poor state of the service pipes and meters has resulted in an increased consumption. It has therefore been necessary to curtail the supply to certain parts of the town for a few hours each day throughout the year. Nevertheless consumption during 1949 averaged 1,220,000 gallons a day. Work on the replacement of defective services and the overhaul of meters has progressed as far as supplies have permitted, but much remains to be done.

The main pipe line from Matang was due for replacement before the war owing to severe corrosion of the steel pipe. The first consignment of 3 miles of 15" cast iron pipes arrived during 1948 and the balance has been delivered during the past year. The balance of valves and "specials" is still awaited, and on their arrival the work of laying the new main will begin. The replacement of this pipe line and of one feeder pipe line will give an increased supply except during periods of drought. Provision is being made for investigation for additional supply to meet increasing demands.

An additional pressed steel storage tank (1,600,000-gallons capacity) has been ordered for erection in 1950/51.

Sibu.

A new waterworks, which was under construction before the war, was put into partial operation at the beginning of 1947. The operation involves pumping by centrifugal pumps from the Rejang River to a purification plant and the pumping of the purified water to storage tanks approximately 90 feet above the level of the town, thence by gravity $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Sibu bazaar, with branch and booster station for the supply of outlying districts.

The quality of the water supplied is good and a satisfactory 20-hours' service has been maintained daily throughout the year. Relaying of town mains was carried out during the year and a satisfactory distribution service is now in operation.

Installations of new services have been limited by availability of the smaller size pipes. There is a growing demand for extension of services and water mains.

Mukah.

The entire water installation, including pumps, motors, piping and tanks, was removed by the Japanese. A survey and design for a new supply was completed in 1948. This will include a pumped supply through $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 7" main, rapid settling tanks, pressure filters and 50,000-gallon high level tank. Financial considerations have made it necessary to proceed slowly with this work, but it is hoped to make a start in 1950.

Sarikei and Binatang.

The water supply has been maintained by the use of a water barge of 36,000-gallons capacity, transporting water during the dry months from Sibu. As 1949 was unusually wet, very little demand was made on this barge.

The provision of a piped supply to these towns presents many problems; the area is low-lying, and river and surface water brackish. A scheme to bring water from ten miles inland was investigated in 1940-41, but was considered unsatisfactory owing to the high cost and the fact that the projected supply was barely adequate for current requirements. As the population of both towns has considerably increased since then, the project is certainly not attractive to-day. A more satisfactory alternative would be a pumped supply from Sibu, where the river water is fresh, but it is not possible at the moment to proceed with a scheme of such magnitude. The present system of rain water collection, supplemented by barge supply, is providing the essential needs of these towns.

Tanjong Mani.

This is a deep-water port on the lower reaches of the Rejang. It is scheduled for development, but at present does not possess a town or village. Water is delivered to large ships by lighter from Sibu, a service very much appreciated by these ships. During 1949 the total amount conveyed was 1,026 tons.

Miri.

The water supply is taken from the Sarawak Oilfields, Ltd., water mains under the pre-war arrangements. A subsidiary pump has been installed to supply Government quarters in the Tanjong Lobang and Brighton areas of the town.

Bintulu.

The water supply consists of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 6" asbestos pipe from a diversion dam in an upland stream to a 50,000-gallon tank in the town. A further $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of similar pipe acts as a distributing main. The water is of very good quality and requires no purification. The 54 shophouses constructed during the year were connected to the supply, which gives a 24-hours' service.

Limbang.

A limited gravity supply of good water is available.

Public Works.

As in previous years, a large part of the expenditure approved for public works in 1949 was spent on restoration of buildings and services and construction of new buildings, mainly quarters, barracks and offices.

In Kuching two blocks of police barracks, seven Senior Service quarters, twenty-three Junior Service quarters, and staff quarters for the General Hospital and the Batu Lintang Training Centre were built. Senior Service housing is still a problem, as construction cannot keep pace with the rate of new arrivals, and, in order to relieve the situation, four temporary bungalows were erected in the residential area to the north of the river. Other major works included a tuberculosis ward for females, a new office for the Governor, a rice godown at the rice mill, a new office for the Geological Survey Department, and condemned cells and annex to the Kuching Jail.

There was a large increase in the works schedule of the Second Division. One Senior Service and four Junior Service quarters, police and warders' barracks, a dispensary at Betong, oil store at Simanggang, jetty and wharf at Saratok, and new concrete drains in Betong and Spaoh were constructed during the year.

In Sibu the two Senior Service quarters started in 1948 were finished, and building started on two more, of which one had been completed by the end of the year. Work was also in progress on fourteen Junior Service quarters in Sibu and seven elsewhere in the Third Division. A maternity ward and an isolation ward were added to the Sibu Hospital, dispensaries were built at Belaga, Binatang and Sarikei, a new Land and Survey office block was constructed in Sibu, and police barracks were completed at Sibu and Sarikei.

The Fourth Division suffered extensive damage from enemy and allied action during the war, and it will be some time before the acute shortage of quarters, office buildings and godowns is completely relieved. Two Senior Service quarters in Miri were completed during the year and a third was nearly finished. Sixteen Junior Service quarters in Miri were built and work was in progress at the end of the year on three others elsewhere in the Division. Other works include police barracks in Miri and Lutong, a police station at Lutong, a customs godown in Miri and reconstruction of the Bintulu wharf.

In the Fifth Division a Senior Service bungalow was reconstructed at Limbang and a Junior Service bungalow built at Sundar. A police block at Lawas was completed, and work was in progress on a second block.

The shortage of technical staff was no less acute than in the preceding post-war years. One civil engineer joined the Department on first appointment in February, but two senior engineers were on leave for much of the year, and towards the end it was necessary to second an officer to Brunei as State Engineer. Three technical officers are, however, expected to arrive early in 1950.

CHAPTER 11.

Communications.

Water.

The rivers and sea afford the principal means of communication. Steamship services ply between Kuching and coastal ports and also serve Sibu and other Rejang River ports. In addition, numerous powered small craft, mainly Chinese-owned, carry passengers and cargo up and down the various rivers. Smaller boats, often driven by outboard motors, make their way far into the interior.

The normal services between Singapore and Sarawak operated by the Sarawak Steamship Company and the Straits Steamship Company were maintained throughout the year. These include direct sailings from Singapore to Kuching, to Sibu and to Miri and North Borneo ports.

The Sarawak Steamship Company's local coastal services connect Kuching with Sibu and with Bintulu, Miri and Marudi (Baram). A Government vessel has maintained a fairly regular monthly service between Kuching and the Fifth Division, with calls at intermediate coastal ports, including Brunei. In addition to the above, coastal trade and communications were maintained fairly regularly by locally-owned small craft between Kuching and the main coastal ports.

446 vessels cleared Miri for foreign ports during the year, with a nett tonnage of 1,826,326; 436 of these were oil tankers. There was an increase in the number of ships entering the Rejang River to load logs, the number amounting to 24, with a nett tonnage of 55,902.

A Royal Navy survey vessel, *H.M.S. Dampier*, landed a party during the year at the mouth of the Sadong River to carry out a hydrographic survey.

There were a few minor casualties to shipping and two vessels became total losses, one at the entrance to the Sarawak River and the other some way downstream of Kuching, where she struck a rock at low tide.

Air.

Regular air communication between Singapore, Kuching and Labuan was maintained by Sunderland flying boats of Transport Command, Royal Air Force, using the Sarawak River at Pending, until June, 1949. This service was then replaced by one operated by Malayan Airways, Ltd., with Dakota aircraft. Temporary extensions to the old runway were put in hand, and by the end of August a runway of 1,191 yards was made available. In July the service was increased to two schedules weekly in each direction. Throughout the period of operation through Kuching, Malayan Airways, Ltd., have landed 350 passengers, uplifted 347 and carried 544 in transit.

Navigational and approach aids have been put into operation. International Aeradio, Ltd., have undertaken, on a three-year contractual basis, the development and operation of these facilities to cover Kuching airport and aerial navigation over Sarawak territory.

The new airport, for construction of which a grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund was approved in 1948, is six miles from Kuching and about a mile to the north of the existing landing ground. Progress in its construction was disappointing owing to unusually heavy rainfall and unreliable equipment. Late in December some new equipment was acquired, and by the end of the year good progress had been made, despite delays in obtaining spare parts for machinery and other materials. There will be an all-weather asphalt macadam-surfaced runway 1,500 yards long and 50 yards wide, with grass-surfaced safety verges of 75 yards wide on either side, and a grass-surfaced overrun of 200 yards at each end. There will also be an asphalt macadam taxiway to an apron of similar construction, adjacent to which the airport building is situated. The building, which provides for control tower, signals room, meteorological office, waiting and refreshment room, customs, immigration and health offices, was started late in the year.

The grass-surfaced landing ground at Lutong near Miri has been maintained by Sarawak Oilfields Ltd., who began to operate private amphibian aircraft during the year. The runway does not possess the requisite safety verges, and it cannot therefore be used by ordinary commercial services save in emergency.



Bamboo bridge at Fa Brayong in the Upper Trusan.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison.

Kavans and Kenyahs hauling boat up the Bakun Rapids, Balui River.

Photograph by I. A. N. Urquhart.



Railways.

Until 1933 a metre-gauge railway, carrying passengers and freight between Kuching and ten miles to the south, was operated by the Public Works Department. The Government continued to use the railway until the Japanese occupation for the transportation of crushed stone to Kuching from the 7th Mile, where the Colony's only quarries are situated.

On resumption of the Civil Administration in 1946, the three steam locomotives were found to be useless for further service and the track was in very bad condition. During 1949 a diesel locomotive arrived and nine of the old steel open trucks were put in running order. The line was cleared as far as the 7th Mile, bomb damage made good and damaged sleepers replaced. It is now possible to bring equipment by rail to the new airport and to bring back stone from the quarries to Kuching.

Roads and Vehicles.

There has never been an extensive road system in the Colony. The main centres of population are not connected by roads, and freight and passenger communications between them have always been dependent on river and sea transport.

With the exception of the Kuching district, unsurfaced earth roads are the general rule. These connect the outlying rubber gardens and agricultural districts with the various centres of population. Light motor vehicles are used on these roads where possible, but their use is of necessity restricted, and upkeep is frequently heavy.

The trunk road from Kuching to Simanggang, approved in 1928, had prior to the war been carried only as far as Serian, 40 miles from Kuching, and metalling and surfacing were never completed beyond the 10th Mile. The road, which supplied an important food-growing area during the occupation, was found on the liberation to be in an impassable condition, and all equipment was missing. Throughout 1946 work was carried out to re-establish it, and since then reconstruction and remetalling have been continued. In 1949 the section from the 10th to the 12th Mile was reconstructed and completely resurfaced, while from the 30th to the 32nd Mile a sound base course was laid and topped with a water-bound macadam surface.

The approximate mileage of roads for the whole Colony is 459, classified as follows:—

Bituminous macadam and concrete surface, all-weather roads	...	...	68 miles
Water-bound macadam and rough metalled surface	...	...	84 ,,
Unmetalled roads suitable for motor traffic under good weather conditions	...	112	,,
Unmetalled pathways and cycle roads	...	195	,,
		—	
	Total	459	,,
		—	

In addition there are some 250 miles of footpaths.

General maintenance work, reconditioning and resurfacing of roads have been carried out during the year in various parts of the Colony. A grant of \$51,294 from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund has been obtained for the reconditioning of 35 bridges on the Upper Sarawak, and 28 of these had been completely rebuilt by the end of the year. The pathway and bridges from Serian to Tebakang in the First Division (\$31,068) and from Betong to Lidong in the Second Division (\$59,605, including a timber jetty), both financed from the same source, were completed in 1949. Construction of the earth surface road of $9\frac{3}{4}$ miles from Limbang to Brunei was also completed during the year, together with a ferry driven by outboard engine.

The extension of road communications has been given much consideration and plans have been prepared for the construction of new highways as a means of developing the economic resources of Sarawak.

Improvement continues in the supply of new motor vehicles, both private and commercial. Some trucks and jeeps taken over from the War Department are still being maintained by the Public Works Department, but they are unsatisfactory now and most of them will have to be replaced within the next two years. Certain new machinery, including caterpillar tractors and bulldozers, were received by the Public Works Department during the year. There is still great difficulty in obtaining replacement parts for these and other mechanical equipment.

Posts and Telecommunications.

There are post offices at all administrative centres, and wireless telegraph stations at the more important centres and in isolated stations. Where possible, outlying districts are linked by line telephone to the nearest administrative centre. The departmental facilities are made available to the public for private and commercial business.

There were 37 post offices in operation during the year. The Royal Air Force Sunderland service continued to carry the air mails until its place was taken in June by Malayan Airways, Ltd.

The rehabilitation of the Miri wireless station was completed in January, and in the following month the Tatau station was reopened, bringing the total number of wireless telegraph stations to 20. The external traffic handled during the year amounted to 803,724 words despatched and 625,722 words received. The internal traffic amounted to 1,432,280 words in Government telegrams and 551,728 in commercial telegrams. International Aeradio, Ltd., took over communication with aircraft and the transmission of night meteorological telegrams to Singapore in December.

A small telephone exchange was installed at Limbang in January, and a new telephone line from Simanggang to Betong in the Second Division, financed from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds, was completed in June. A new submarine cable connecting Pending and Goebilt on the Sarawak River was received and laid in March. There are now approximately 617 miles of cable and 1,840 miles of open wire in use. A line from Lawas, through Trusan, to Sundar, in the Fifth Division, was under construction at the end of the year; this will replace the pre-war line. 150 new telephone instruments were received during the year and were used to replace old instruments.

CHAPTER 12.

Science and Arts.

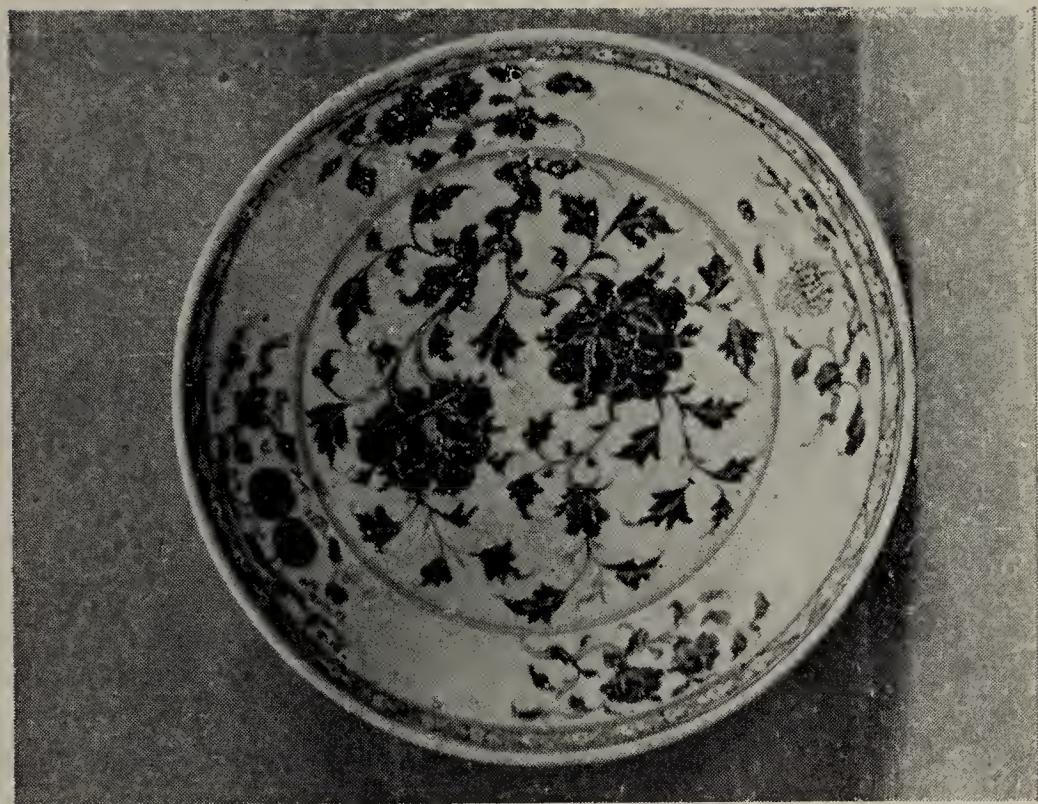
The Museum.

The idea of establishing a Museum was first conceived in 1878. "Arms, boats, cloths, woods, horns and skulls of deer, and other animals, old fashioned gold work, old china or pottery, paddles, minerals, fibres, oil, carvings, ornaments and the relics of any superstition, either in wood or stone" were mentioned as a guide to the type of collection required. In the ensuing years some collections were made, but it was not until the end of 1886, when H. Brooke-Low's collection was purchased, that the establishment of a Museum was vigorously pursued. It was opened in a temporary building over the market place in 1886, and the present Museum, begun in 1889, was opened in 1891. It has since been added to, improved and renovated, the last important building operations taking place in 1940.

It is fortunate that throughout the greater part of the Japanese occupation the Museum was under the direction of a sympathetic Japanese curator, and for that reason it was found on the re-occupation to have suffered very little damage and remarkably little looting. A number of gold ornaments were recovered with the assistance of the Commander of the Australian Military Forces, and the Museum was opened to the public within a few days after the relief of Kuching.

The building is divided into two floors. On the ground floor are the zoological collections and on the upper floor the ethnological collections. Other buildings, near the main building, contain extensive collections of fish, snakes, crustaceans and other forms of animal life preserved in spirit; scientific reference collections of bird and mammal skins, archaeological collections and reference books; and the public library. There are also valuable botanical collections.

A section for live animals, which began in a small way in 1948, was extended during the year to include a large cage for orang-utan (maiias). This has been used as a Government pound for any of these animals which have been confiscated, for the taking or keeping of an orang-utan without special licence is prohibited. At one time there were ten of



15th century blue and white plate
from a longhouse in the interior.



Kenyah bead-work, Barau River.

Two recent Museum acquisitions.

A recent Museum acquisition.
A Muru war hat.



them on the premises. Other animals include a honey bear, two baby crocodiles and turtles in a tank, a pair of grotesque adjutant storks and a pet cockatoo. These have proved a very popular feature of the Museum grounds and visitors who have come to look at the animals have been drawn thence into the Museum.

The Museum grows yearly more popular and it is estimated that over 60,000 people visited it during the year, of whom about 40% were Malays, 40% Chinese, and the remainder Dayaks and occasional Europeans.

Expeditions.

During the year the Curator of the Museum made another visit to the Kelabit country, covering a considerably wider area than in 1948. The main objects of this expedition were to collect certain large mammals not hitherto exhibited in the Museum and to take photographs of the lesser-known tribes. A pair of leopards and a pair of honey bears, both with young, were collected, and the Museum now lacks only sambhur and barking deer and rhinoceros to complete its large mammal exhibits. More than a thousand photographs were taken, from the Murut country behind Lawas, through the Kelabit area to the land of the Kayans and Kenyahs of the Baram.

Archaeology.

Special attention has been paid during the year to archaeology, a subject hitherto neglected in Sarawak.

Trial excavations at Santubong and Bau in the First Division have produced much interesting material. There appears to have been a considerable early settlement at Santubong, working iron on a very large scale, while at Bau the only evidence so far known of a Bronze Age in Borneo has been found in the shape of a bronze axe. It is hoped to conduct detailed excavation of these sites in the coming year.

In connection with archaeological work, the collection of neolithic stone implements has been continued, and about 100 additional specimens have been obtained. At the end of the year an accidental contact produced an entirely new type of stone implement, in Kuching, in the possession of a Malay, and since then sixteen of these massive, hard, black stone axes and chisels have been collected. This new

material suggests that all the current theories of the Stone Age in this part of the world may have to be revised.

Several beautiful pieces of old pottery and porcelain were added to the existing collection during the year, including what appears to be a T'ang saucer, found at Saratok in the Second Division, and a beautiful Sung celadon cup found at Santubong. There is now sufficient material to form a special ceramic gallery in the Museum.

Native Arts and Crafts.

Most of the native peoples do *rotan* work, principally for making sleeping mats and for decorative use in the house. Many other types of mat are also made by them for their own industrial purposes.

Weaving is practised mainly by the Sea Dayaks who, using their own jungle dyes, make women's skirts and *kain pua*, often used for curtains. Before the war there was extensive weaving of *sarongs* by the Malays and Melanaus, but this industry is now moribund owing to the loss or damage caused to the looms during the Japanese occupation and to the difficulty of obtaining cotton.

The finest types of boat are made by the Malays and Melanaus, and the Melanau paddle, with its distinctive design, is well known. Fishing nets too are made by the coastal people, mainly with imported twine, and fish traps of various types.

Basket-work is done principally by the Melanaus, and in Matu a very fine small hat (*s'raong*) is made of a kind of rush, coloured with local dyes, and adorned with sequins. In Bintulu and Igan a larger kind of coloured hat is made. The Land Dayaks make large baskets (*basong*), which they carry on their backs; they are of *rotan*, with an inner lining of bark, and a deer-hide top.

The agricultural knife (*parang*) is made by the interior peoples, but the principal manufacturers are the Chinese and the Malohs from across the border, and the best ones are imported from the Batang Kayan in the United States of Indonesia. The Punans are the chief makers of blowpipes.

Metal-work handles for *parangs* are made by the local tribes. The Sea Dayaks, Kayans and Muruts do a certain amount of carving in horn, from which they make such articles as hair-combs and handles for *parangs* and walking-sticks.

The Berawans of the Tinjar produce somewhat crude wood carvings for table-legs and bottle-stoppers, and the Melanaus carve crude idols and boat ornaments from soft-woods, chiefly the *plai* (*Alstonia spp.*). Both Melanaus and Sea Dayaks carve wooden figures of dragon type to place above their graves.

Coloured bead-work of a high standard is done by the Kayans and Kenyahs. It is used for dress ornaments and for the decoration of hats and tobacco and betel-nut boxes.

Goldsmiths and silversmiths are to be found almost entirely among the Chinese in the towns, though some Malohs also do this work.

There is very little pottery manufacture, but a Chinese factory near Kuching is producing some quite promising glazed ware.

The native musical instruments are mostly wind instruments made from gourds. The Malays, however, make a stringed instrument, the *gambus*, and the Kayans and Kenyahs a similar instrument called the *sapeh*. Both resemble the mandolin.

Tattooing is practised by some tribes of the native peoples, notably among the Sea Dayaks and the Kayans and Kenyahs, and many of the designs are striking and well executed.

The Library.

For many years there has been a public library in Kuching, but membership has been almost entirely confined to European residents. Visits have been paid during the year by a representative of the British Council, and a portion of the library has now been moved from the old library building in which it was formerly housed to another, which has been converted into a reading room. The building is too small to accommodate all the books belonging to the library as well as to provide the minimum reading room facilities, but already the reading room is proving its worth and is being increasingly used by students and schoolboys. A radiogram has been purchased and arrangements made for films to be shown and lectures given. The Curator of the Museum was responsible for the library during the year, but it was hoped that in 1950 it would be taken over by the British Council.

Literature.

The first issue of the *Sarawak Museum Journal* to be published since 1937 appeared in May. It contained papers on a variety of subjects by people of various races within Sarawak, and a few by scholars from outside.

Cultural Societies.

A Music Society was formed in Kuching in 1947, to further the appreciation of music among all communities, to work towards the eventual establishment of a large amateur orchestra and choir and to encourage the teaching of music in schools. Membership is at present practically confined to Europeans and Chinese. During the year the orchestra has given two small performances and has done a considerable amount of practising, but latterly practices have had to cease owing to deterioration of instruments caused by the climate and lack of funds to buy more; they will be resumed when the dry weather returns. The choir has given no performances during the year, but has been practising constantly.

During the course of the year a Kuching Art Club was formed, to stimulate an interest in, and to encourage self-expression through, the fine arts, and to provide means for artists and students to pursue their arts. Membership is at present about 25, including Europeans, Chinese, a Dayak and a Malay. The Club sponsored two exhibitions during the year, which were well attended. Sketching expeditions were a success, and preparations were in hand at the end of the year for the Club to hold its first general exhibition early in 1950.

Another flourishing association is the Floricultural Improvement Society, which was formed in Kuching in June, 1947. Membership is at present 55. Highly successful flower shows were held in both 1948 and 1949, which have undoubtedly stimulated interest in floriculture. The Society has recently been presented with the loan of a house, which it is intended to use as a club-house and nursery, and with the funds at its disposal it aims at improvement in the cultivation of orchids and other flowers.

Turtle Eggs and Edible Birds' Nests.

The edible turtles (*Chelon mydas*) nest on three islands north-west of Kuching, which are administered through the Museum. 1949 was a bad year for turtle eggs, less than a

million of which were obtained, mainly owing to continuous bad weather at sea. Nevertheless, considerable profits were handed over to the Turtle Trust, which disposes of these for charitable and religious purposes. Only the eggs may be taken, and therefore the turtle industry still flourishes in Sarawak. Previously all eggs have been collected and taken away, but during this year large numbers have been replanted and hatched in special nurseries; as a result much interesting information has been obtained about fertility and other factors.

New rules were issued during the year to regulate the collection of edible birds' nests on a basis related to the habits of the swifts, which make the nests. Experience has shown that, where the scientific facts about nesting are recognised and the dates of collection controlled accordingly, the output of nests has improved considerably, both in quality and in quantity.

PART III

CHAPTER 1.

Geography.

General description.

The Colony of Sarawak consists of a coastal strip some 450 miles long and varying from 40 to 120 miles in depth on the north-west coast of the island of Borneo, and has an area of some 47,000 square miles.

A broken range of mountains runs south-west through the middle of the island. This range, with others parallel and at right angles to it, determines the courses of the many rivers.

Sarawak lies between this range and the sea, on its north-west side. The southern border, with West Borneo, is formed by another range of mountains running westerly from about the centre of the main range.

In general, the country is divided into three main types. Firstly, an alluvial and swampy coastal plain in which isolated mountains and mountain groups rise to 2,000 feet or more, then rolling country of yellow sandy clay intersected by ranges of mountains and finally a mountainous area in the interior.

The coast is generally flat and low-lying with heavy vegetation and flat sandy or mud beaches. In a few places, hills come down to the sea forming coastal cliffs.

Most of the mountains are sandstone, but there are extrusions of limestone appearing as low pinnacles 10-15 feet high, or as hills, with sheer sides, weathered and crumbling, rising up to 1,500 feet, with scrub on top.

Vegetation on the mountains is generally virgin forest, except near the main rivers where the forest has been cleared for rice cultivation and secondary growth has sprung up.

The greater part of the country is under forest, with areas of rubber or sago plantations in the neighbourhood of government stations and along the numerous rivers and of coconuts along the coast.



Kelabit playing on pan-pipes.

Copyright Sarawak Museum.

Balau Dayak of Kampong Plai'i carving a ritual hornbill.



The few islands off the coast are small and of little importance. Roads are few, and travel is mainly by sea and river. The climate is warm and humid, day temperatures averaging 85° F. Annual rainfall varies from 100 to 200 inches.

Geology.

Sarawak occupies an important position in the make-up of the island chains of South-East Asia, its mountain arc of ancient rocks being essentially a prolongation of the Philippine ranges, which continue southwards into northern Borneo, swing gradually south-westwards after entering Sarawak, and then trend west before gradually curving north-west. In the extreme west of Sarawak there is a sudden change in this trend and structures strike north or north-north-east in common with the Malayan regional strike.

Sarawak can be subdivided provisionally into three geological areas, reflecting the broad geographical divisions into interior mountains, bordering undulating country containing isolated mountain groups and low-lying coastal tracts.

The mountainous area is formed largely of mesozoic and upper palaeozoic rocks. It appears to consist mainly of hard, crystalline rocks, comprising shale, schist, phyllite, hornstone, chert, marble, limestone, quartzite and igneous intrusions.

Tertiary sediments are best exposed in the undulating country, which rises occasionally to over 2,000 feet. These comprise sandstone, shale, grit, conglomerate and limestone; seams of coal occur and some of the beds are petrolierous. The tertiary sediments are economically the country's most important deposits, being the source of both the oil and most of the coal.

Pleistocene and recent deposits form the low-lying coastal tracts; these are mostly occupied by alluvium and many of the areas are swampy. The sediments vary from soft mud and peat to unconsolidated sands and rare shell banks. Raised beaches are found in some areas, even at a distance from the coast, and there are isolated patches of recent sediments inland representing river and lake accumulations.

Igneous rocks occur, and the formation of mineral deposits such as gold, antimony and mercury appears to be genetically related to the igneous activity. However, neither the igneous

intrusions nor the mineral deposits have been mapped or systematically investigated, and their exact relationships are uncertain.

Vegetation.

Moss forest occurs on the tops of hills over 4,500 feet, that is, on the peaks in the north-east area, such as Dulit and Mulu.

Tropical rain forest, with trees of the hill varieties (as distinct from swamp varieties), covers the greater part of the territory, except for the swamp areas near the coast and the cultivated areas.

Mangrove occurs extensively near the mouths of the Sarawak and Rejang Rivers.

Nipah palm lines the banks of most rivers from the mouths up to the edge of the swampy area.

Rivers.

The drainage system is controlled by the border range, and the central secondary range, both running NE-SW, decreasing in elevation, and by the ridges at right-angles to these two.

The Rejang and Sarawak Rivers are navigable by ocean-going ships for 170 and 22 miles respectively measured along the rivers. Others are navigable by coastal steamers, and others by launches. Most of the rivers have shallow bars which limit the size of vessels entering.

In their lower courses the banks and bottoms of the rivers are generally of a stiff, glutinous mud. For varying distances from the mouths the river-bank vegetation is usually mangrove, and farther up nipah. As the coastal swamps are left behind, the river banks rise above the normal high water level, and in the Trusan, Limbang, Baram and Rejang Rivers, gorges and dangerous rapids occur well below the sources.

Climate and Meteorological.

The season October to March is, in general, the season of heavy rains, strong winds and high seas, with occasional periods of calm. It is the season of the north-east monsoon. Except for a transitional month at each end, the remainder of the year has less rainfall, with occasional droughts lasting up to three weeks, and with clear skies.

Annual rainfall varies from under 100 inches near the coast away from mountains to over 200 inches inland in the

neighbourhood of mountains. In the coastal area from Miri to Labuan most of the rainfall is between midnight and dawn. The year's rainfall at Kuching was 157.26 inches. The maximum monthly rainfall was 18.45 inches in October and the minimum 8.30 inches in June. The effect of rainfall is most felt in the head-waters of the rivers, where the rivers may rise by as much as 50 feet above their normal level.

Prevailing winds are from the north and north-east in the season October-March, the wet season, when there is generally a swell from the north-east, and from the south-west for the remainder of the year. The worst storms are usually in December and March.

Principal Towns.

Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, stands on the Sarawak river some 18 miles from the sea. It is an attractively laid out town with a population estimated at approximately 38,000. The trading community is almost entirely composed of Chinese who live in the town proper, which is built of brick usually plastered and colour-washed and with roofs of tile. Within the town limits are large Malay villages or suburbs. The Governor's residence is the Astana on the north (left) bank of the river and there also may be found Fort Margherita, the headquarters of the Sarawak Constabulary, large Malay riverside *kampongs* and several residential bungalows.

The town, the main Government offices, the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals and Schools, the wharves, warehouses and dockyard are on the south bank of the river. The town area is administered by a Municipal Board.

Sibu, the second town of Sarawak, is situated some 80 miles up the Rejang river and is a natural river anchorage. The town itself, together with Government offices, bazaar, churches, schools, wharves and warehouses, lies on a small flat island and is subject at times to floods. The population of the town of Sibu is approximately 10,000 and it is the headquarters of the Resident of the Third Division.

Miri, the headquarters of the Resident of the Fourth Division, is situated on the coast some 15 miles from the mouth of the Baram river and to the south-west of that river. Miri owes its existence to the Sarawak Oilfields and has a population of approximately 9,000. It suffered severe damage as a result of the war, the town proper being almost entirely destroyed, and still presents a sorry aspect, though recon-

struction is taking place. The bazaar, wharves, hospital and oil company offices lie along the narrow flat strip of land between the sea and the steep slopes about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles inland. The Government residential area is at Tanjong Lobang, some 2 miles from the town.

Other centres of population are Limbang (headquarters of the Fifth Division), Simanggang (headquarters of the Second Division), Sarikei, Binatang, Mukah and Bintulu. All are small settlements of a few thousand persons, together with the usual bazaar, Government offices and quarters, and wharfage facilities.

CHAPTER 2.

History.

Owing to the lack of systematic archaeological investigation, we can do little more than conjecture as to the early history of the country now called Sarawak. Hindu figures and gold ornaments have been found, predominantly in the Sarawak River basin, but their date and provenance have not yet been satisfactorily established. The Land Dayaks of the First Division, by their abstention from the flesh of cattle and by the name of their god Jewata (Hindu *deva*), show that at one time they were brought into intimate contact with the Hindus.

A priori reasoning, coupled with the discovery of undoubtedly early Hindu remains in other parts of Borneo, suggests that Sarawak was visited, and probably settled in, by the Indian colonists, who from the early years of the Christian era went forth from their homeland to trade and settle in the countries to the south-east.

Gold has long been worked in the area extending from Kuching south-westward to Sambas and Montrado in West Borneo. Though the production of this area is insignificant in comparison with the present-day total world output, it must, if Borneo gold was known in the days of the great Indian trading expeditions, have been of considerable importance in the ancient world. The fabulous "Golden Chersonese" may well have included western Borneo and indeed a theory has recently been advanced that *Yavadvipa* (the "land of gold and silver" of the *Ramayana*), Ptolemy's *Iabadiou*, and *Ye-po-ti*, which was visited by the Chinese Buddhist monk Fa-Hien on his return from India to China in 413-414 A.D., all refer to the country lying between Kuching and Sambas.

It is likely that Sarawak later fell under the sway of the great maritime empire of Srivijaya, the Indian Buddhist thalassocracy centred on southern Sumatra, which reached its zenith towards the end of the twelfth century. Srivijaya fell about a century later before the attacks of Siam and the Hindu-Javanese kingdom of Majapahit, and Borneo fell within the sphere of influence of the latter. It is to this period that

a considerable number of the Indian remains in Sarawak are doubtless to be dated. The Majapahit empire in its turn began to crumble early in the fifteenth century before the Moslem states established by the advance of Islam into the archipelago.

After the fall of Majapahit Sarawak formed part of the dominions of the Malay Sultan of Brunei, and it is first known to us by name through the visits to Brunei of Pigafetta in 1521, of Jorge de Menezes in 1526 and of Gonsalvo Pereira in 1530, and by an early map of the East Indies by Mercator. Sarawak was then the name of a town on the river of the same name, doubtless occupying much the same position as the present capital, Kuching.

The history of Sarawak as an integral State begins with the first landing in August, 1839, of James Brooke. At that time Sarawak was the southern province of the Brunei Sultanate. The oppression of the Sultan's viceroy, Makota, had goaded into revolt the Malays and Land Dayaks resident in the area known as Sarawak Proper, and the Sultan had sent his uncle, the Rajah Muda Hassim, to pacify the country. The insurgents were led by Datu Patinggi Ali. James Brooke departed after a short stay and returned in 1840, to find the fighting still in progress. At the request of Rajah Muda Hassim, he interceded in the dispute, brought about a settlement and was rewarded for his services by being installed on the 24th September, 1841, as Rajah of the territory from Cape Datu to the Samarahan River. This, however, is but a small part of the total area which was later contained within the State of Sarawak.

Thereafter for the remaining twenty-three years of his life Rajah Brooke devoted himself to the suppression of piracy and head-hunting, often with the assistance of ships of the Royal Navy, which performed almost incredible feats of navigation and endurance. It is a story of high adventure, financial difficulty, political persecution at home by the Radical party, followed by complete vindication and success. Sarawak was recognised as an independent State by the United States of America in 1850, and Great Britain granted recognition in effect by appointing a British Consul in 1864. In 1861 the territory of Sarawak was enlarged by the Sultan's cession of all rivers and lands from the Sadong River to Kidurong Point.

Sir James Brooke, at his death in 1868, bequeathed to his nephew and successor, Charles Brooke, a country paternally governed, with a solid foundation of mutual trust and affection between ruler and ruled.

The first Rajah pioneered, subdued and pacified; Sir Charles Brooke, in a long reign of fifty years, built upon the foundations laid by his uncle with such conspicuous success that piracy disappeared, head-hunting was greatly reduced and the prosperity of the country increased by leaps and bounds.

Further large accretions of territory occurred in 1882, when the frontier was advanced beyond the Baram River, in 1885, when the valley of the Trusan River was ceded, and in 1890, when the Limbang River was annexed at the request of the inhabitants. In 1905 the Lawas River area was purchased from the British North Borneo Company with the consent of the British Government. British protection was accorded to Sarawak in 1888.

Between 1870 and 1917 the revenue rose from \$122,842 to \$1,705,292 and the expenditure from \$126,161 to \$1,359,746. The public debt was wiped out and a considerable surplus was built up. In 1870 imports were valued at \$1,494,241 and exports at \$1,328,963. In 1917 imports totalled \$4,999,320 and exports \$6,283,071. Roads had been constructed, piped water supplies laid down and a dry dock opened in Kuching. There were telephones, and the wireless telegraph was opened to international traffic.

The third Rajah, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, succeeded his father in 1917, and progress continued in all spheres. Head-hunting, as a result of tireless efforts, was reduced to sporadic proportions, revenue increased, enhanced expenditure resulted in improved medical and educational services, and in 1941, the centenary year of Brooke rule, the State was in a sound economic position with a large sum of money in reserve. As a centenary gesture, the Rajah enacted a new constitution, which abrogated his absolute powers and set the feet of his people on the first stage of the road to democratic self-government.

Then came the Japanese invasion and occupation. Social services and communications were neglected; education ceased to exist; health precautions were ignored; sickness and malnutrition spread throughout the State. The people had

been reduced to poverty and misery when, after the unconditional surrender of Japan, the Australian forces entered Kuching on the 11th September, 1945.

For seven months Sarawak was administered by a British Military Administration, as a result of whose efforts supplies of essential commodities were distributed, the constabulary reformed and the medical and educational services reorganised.

The Rajah resumed the administration of the State on the 15th April, 1946. It had, however, for some time been evident to him that greater resources and more technical and scientific experience were needed to restore to Sarawak even a semblance of her former prosperity. He therefore decided that the time had come to hand the country over to the care of the British Crown, and a Bill to this effect was introduced into the Council Negri in May, 1946, and passed by a small majority. By an Order-in-Council the State became a British Colony on the 1st July, 1946.

CHAPTER 3.

Administration.

The Constitution grants legislative and financial jurisdiction to the Council Negri, a body consisting of twenty-five members, fourteen of whom are official members appointed from the Sarawak Civil Service and eleven of whom are unofficial members representative of the several peoples dwelling within the Colony and of their various interests. The unofficial members are appointed by the Governor in Council and hold office for a period of three years.

In addition to the twenty-five members there are 14 standing members. The Constitution Ordinance provides that a native of Sarawak, who was a member of Council Negri immediately prior to the enactment of the Ordinance, and who is not a member of the Council appointed under the provisions of the Ordinance, shall nevertheless be deemed to be a member of the Council Negri and shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Council and of speaking and voting therein until he shall die or resign or cease to be a member of the Sarawak Civil Service.

The Council Negri has the power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Colony and no public money may be expended or any charge whatsoever made upon the revenues of the Colony except with the consent of the Council Negri.

The Constitution Ordinance also provides for a Supreme Council composed of not less than five members, a majority of whom shall be members of the Sarawak Civil Service, and a majority of whom shall be members of the Council Negri.

All powers conferred upon the Rajah or the Rajah in Council by any written law enacted before the date of operation of the Cession of Sarawak to His Majesty are vested in the Governor in Council. In the exercise of his powers and duties the Governor shall consult with the Supreme Council, except in making appointments to the Supreme Council and in cases

(a) which are of such nature that, in his judgment, His Majesty would sustain material prejudice by consulting the Supreme Council thereon; or

(b) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgment, too unimportant to require their advice; or

(c) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgment, too urgent to admit of their advice being given by the time within which it may be necessary for him to act.

The Constitution was granted to Sarawak by the Rajah in 1941 and in 1946, when Sarawak became a Colony, by Letters Patent the Supreme Council and the Council Negri retained the authority granted to them.

Sarawak is divided for administrative purposes into five Divisions, each in charge of a Resident. Each Division is subdivided into a number of Districts, administered by District Officers, and most of the Districts into small areas or sub-stations each in charge of a member of the Native Officers' Service. As far as is practicable, it is the policy of the Government to free Residents and District Officers from as much routine office work as is possible in order that they may tour their areas and maintain the close contact with the people which has always been the key-note of the administration. Native Administration has in the past been of the direct type, with village headmen or chiefs of village groups responsible to European and Malay Officers.

Before the war, however, the Native Administration Order was published as an enabling ordinance to allow the gradual introduction of the people themselves into the administration of their own affairs. This order envisaged the setting up of village committees to replace the individual chiefs but the first experiment on these lines was unsuccessful owing to the outbreak of war and the impossibility of providing adequate supervision.

In 1947 a scheme was drawn up for the development of Local Government through Local Authorities with their own Local Treasuries, and five such Authorities came into being at the beginning of 1948. During the past year eleven new Authorities have been constituted, and there are now sixteen Local Authorities in all. The majority of these Authorities are established on a racial basis, and this seems inevitable at present if any progress is to be made. There are, however,



The Turtle Islands : Talang-Talang Besar looking over to Talang-Talang Kechil.

Copyright Sarawak Museum.



'The Tarsier (*Tarsius spectrum*).

Copyright Sarawak Museum.

encouraging signs of co-operation between the various races in certain parts of the country. In Limbang Malays, Chinese, Kedayans, Muruts and Indians participate in the same Authority; a mixed Malay and Dayak Authority has been formed at Lundu in the First Division; and a mixed Malay, Sea Dayak and Land Dayak Authority was about to be launched at Serian at the end of the year. At the beginning of 1950 no less than 195,000 persons were living within the sphere of a Local Authority.

The Local Authority Ordinance, 1948, forms the basis for the powers of these Authorities. Their revenues consist of direct taxes, fines and fees, supplemented by a grant from the Central Government calculated according to the number of tax-payers.

While the standard of efficiency between one Authority and another has differed widely, they have in general shown ability to undertake the duties so far allotted to them. Education has been a subject in which they have shown the greatest interest, and some of them have been quick to appreciate that increased expenditure can generally be met only by increased taxation.

CHAPTER 4.

Weights and Measures.

The standard weights and measures recognised under the Laws of the Colony are the Imperial yard, the Imperial pound and the Imperial gallon.

Certain local customary weights and measures having the values set out below are also lawful :—

1 Tahil	=	$1\frac{1}{3}$ ozs.
1 Kati (16 tahils)	=	$1\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
1 Pikul (100 katis)	=	$133\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
1 Koyan (40 pikuls)	=	$5333\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
1 Chhun	=	$1.19/40$ inches.
10 Chhuns	=	1 Chhek = $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
1 Panchang	=	108 stacked cubic feet.

CHAPTER 5.

Newspapers and Periodicals.

The Sarawak Tribune, Kuching (Daily) (English).
The Kuching Daily News, Kuching (Daily) (Chinese).
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The Utusan Sarawak, Kuching (Weekly) (Malay).
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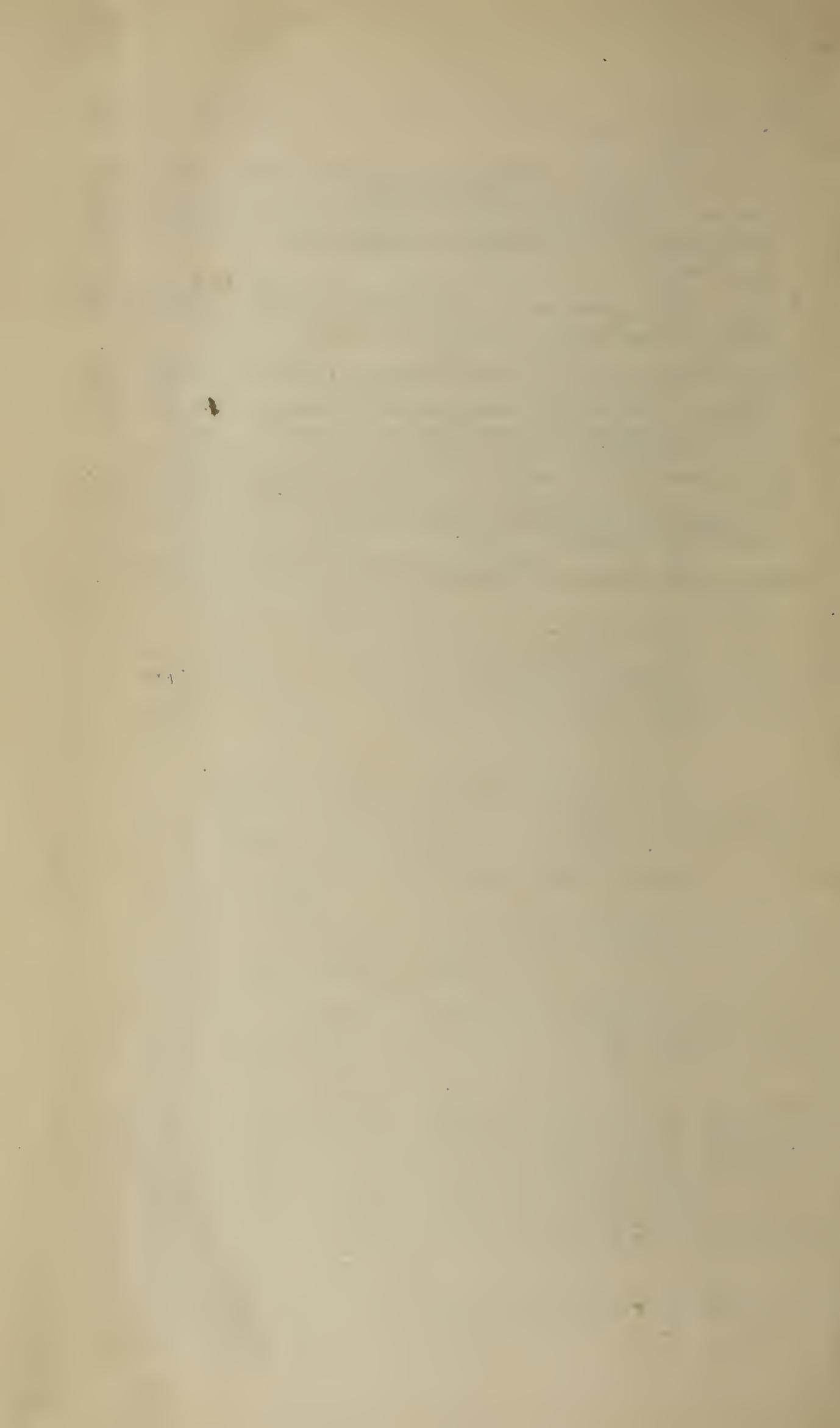
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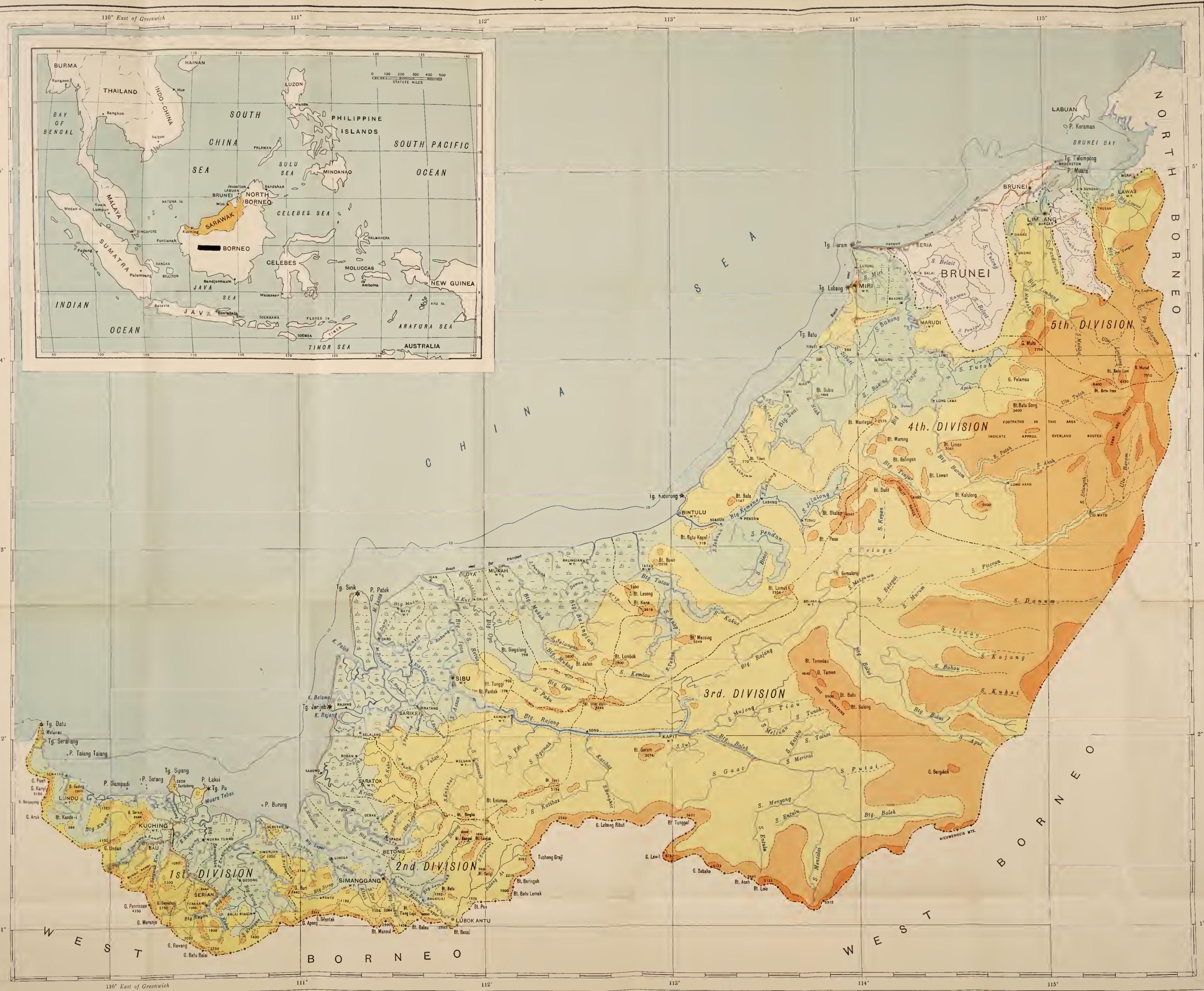
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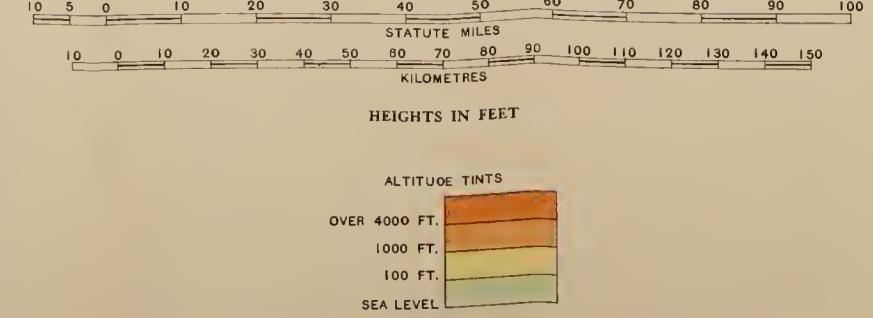
SARAWAK SERIES N^o 7 First Edition

Survey Dept., Sarawak. 1900-1901

LEGEND

Road: Main	—	River: Surveyed	Wavy lines
Road: Secondary	—	River: Unsurveyed	.....	Wavy lines with dots
Footpath.	—	Swamp	.....	Shaded area
Railway: Single Track	—	Depth Line: 10 Fathoms.	.....	10
Headquarters: Division	■	Heights	.....	7950
Headquarters: District	○	Contours: Approximate	.....	100
Other Towns.	●	Sandbank	.....
Boundary: International	—+—+—+—	W/T Stations	.....	W.T.
Boundary: Division	—	Telephone Lines	.....	XX XX XX
Boundary: District	—	Airfields	.....	◎
Lighthouse	★			

Scale 1:1,000,000 or 15.78 Miles to One Inch



GLOSSARY

Bukit	Bt.	Hill
Batang	Btg.	Main River
Gunong	G.	Mountain
Kuala	K.	Mouth of River
Loagan	Lg.	Ox-how; Abandoned Reach of River; or sometimes Swampy Lake
Muara	M.	Mouth of River
Pulau	P.	Island
Sungei	S.	River
Tanjong	Tg.	Cape
Ulu		Headwaters

